

AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 62

JUNE 1989

**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
SECTOR F-5/2, P. O. BOX 1173
ISLAMABAD-PAKISTAN**

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1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

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Edited and Published by Ross Masood Husain on behalf of the Institute of Strategic Studies vide DM. Islamabad Memo No. 2617/C of 14-7-1985 and despatched under GPO's Registered No. N-1072, Telephones: 824628, 821340, 824658.
Subscription Rates: *Annual* Rs. 120.00 *Single copy* Rs. 10; *Overseas Annual* US \$ 60.00, *Single* US \$ 5.00 including air mail. *Address:* The Institute of Strategic Studies, Sector F-5/2, Islamabad.
Printed by Abdal Ghani Barq at Ferozsons Rawalpindi Ltd., 32 Saddar Road Rawalpindi, Telephones: 62302 — 62366 — 67901, Islamabad Office: 3, Saleem Plaza, Blue Area, Telephone: 815396.

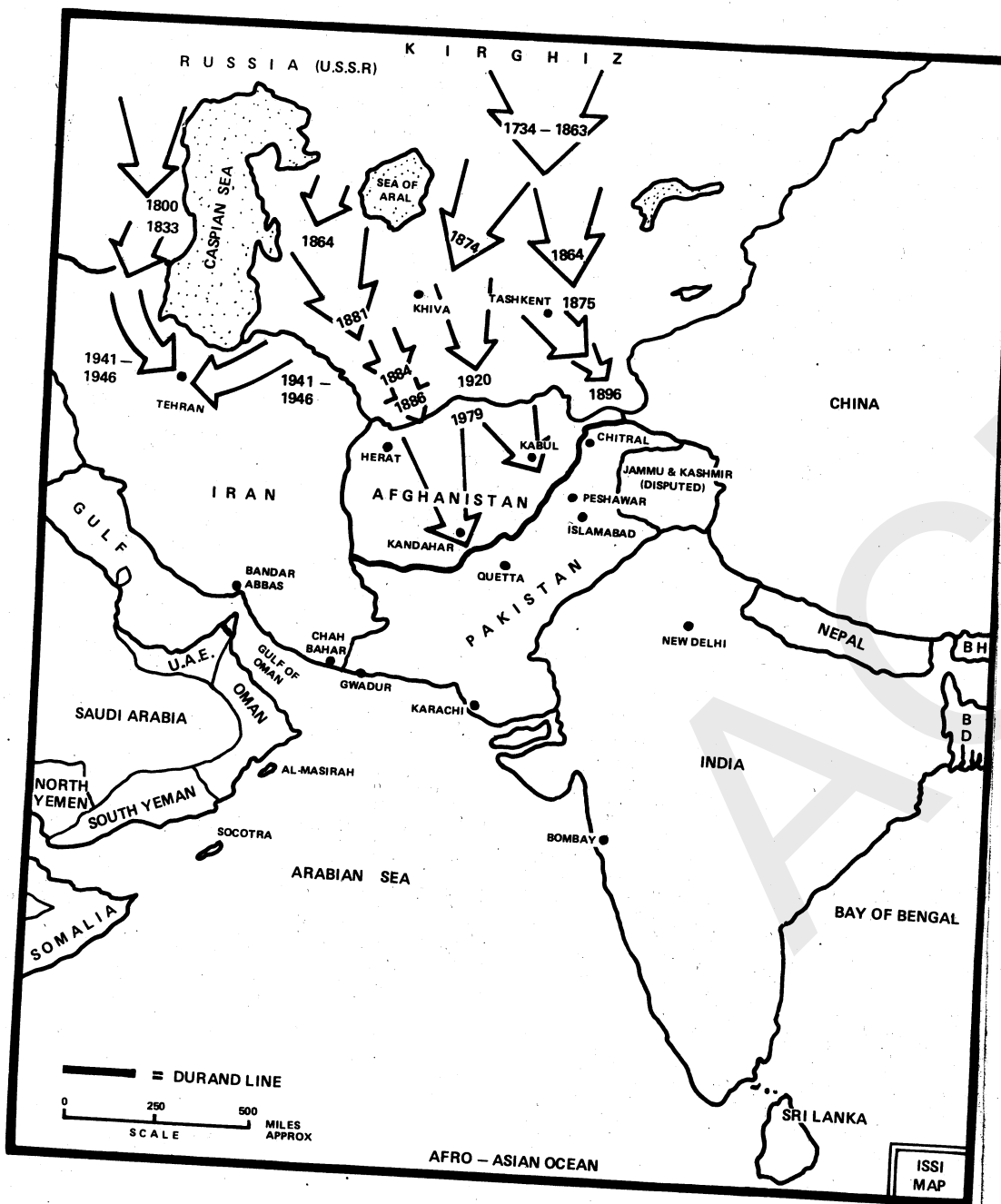
ACRONYMS

AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
RA	=	Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KT	=	The Kabul Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NF	=	National Front.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

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THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



I.— THE FOURTH AFGHAN WAR

1 — SUMMARY PERSPECTIVE (See map Appendix 7)

Mujahideen sources reported 563 incidents in 20 out of 31 Afghan provinces during May 1989. These military engagements comprised of 102 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 173 strikes against immobile targets. Soviet-Kabul forces conducted at least 126 air and 107 ground strikes against Mujahideen fixed positions or mobile groups.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Ningarhar, Kabul and Pakiya followed by Qandahar, Baghlan and Parwan provinces.

Urban Conflict

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 14 provincial capitals including the major cities of Kabul, Qandahar and Jalalabad.

Soviet-Kabul Coverage

According to Radio Kabul reports Security Forces conducted 106 operations in 11 provinces.

Kabul media claimed 4,671 "counter-revolutionaries" were killed and 2,230 wounded. It was reported that counter-revolutionary elements carried out 88 "acts of subversion" in 8 provinces.

Defections

According to Mujahideen reports about 2,354 Afghan troops defected to Mujahideen in May 1989.

Human Losses

During the reporting month, 1,356 Kabul troops/militiamen, were killed and 1,454 wounded. On the other side, 268 Mujahideen and 126 civilians were killed.

Aerial Losses

According to Mujahideen sources 31 aircraft were destroyed/damaged in the month of May 1989. These figures included 18 aircraft destroyed/damaged on the airfields. Thirteen others were shot down during bombing and reconnaissance missions. The airfields frequently raided were Qandahar, Kunduz, Mazar-e-Sharif, Shindand, Kabul, Bagram and Khost.

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad, in the preparation of this part of the monthly report.

Scud Missiles

During the reporting month of May, Kabul forces fired at least 69 Scud surface-to-surface missiles, mostly on the eastern provinces of Ningarhar, Paktiya and Ghazni. Mujahideen reports stated that 58 people were killed in these incidents. At least 2 Scud missiles landed on Pakistani territory, one near Bannu in Waziristan and the other deeper down near Bhakkar, Mianwali district in the Punjab province. Both dug deep craters at the points of their impact on the ground.

2 — NOTEABLE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

The main tasks before the Najib administration are:

- (i) To protect the capital.
- (ii) To break out of the Mujahideen siege in Jalalabad.
- (iii) To keep the population in major cities, which they still control, supplied with food.

It may therefore be asked: what measures are being taken for defending Kabul? How well the airbases are protected?

Both Afghan and Soviet media have, in some cases, dealt with defence arrangements for Kabul and Jalalabad. Interior Minister Aslam Watanyar told Pravda sometime ago about "carefully prepared plans ... and ... measures to create a powerful defence" for the Afghan capital.

Nevertheless, a review of present three months suggests that these arrangements may not prevent Mujahideen from entering Kabul city despite the three defence rings of Special Guards, Tsarandoy and Khad. Explosive materials, weapons and ammunition are already being smuggled into the Afghan capital.

Major General Abdul Muqim Paykar told TASS that on March 18, officers from the State Security Department "seized 700 kilograms of explosives and 300 metres of bickford cord. To bring in the explosives, terrorists use hollowed logs: They placed explosives into cavities and brought them to a vacant house in Kabul as firewood. In past 2 months the head of the State Security Department added, they had "seized over five tonnes of explosives from various under ground terrorist organizations. ..."

Pravda reported on 26 March that in just 36 days since the state of emergency was announced on 18 February, "State Security Department organs have exposed 86 under ground groups of various anti-government parties. ... Every thing indicates that opponents of the regime are endeavoring to accumulate forces ... in the capital."

In May, Soviet and Kabul sources cited 20 incidents where the regime security forces "thwarted attempts of subversion and unearthed

several kilograms of explosives" etc. These sources also reported 23 "acts of subversion" that took place in Kabul, a term they use for Mujahideen urban guerilla activities.

In an article titled "In Besieged Jalalabad" Pravda correspondent V. Snegirev portrays pilots flying to Jalalabad as: "They do not make normal flights to Jalalabad. They break through. Each time is combat and each flight is like the last."

Snegirev adds: "the extremists know how much" the defenders of the city rely entirely on helicopters ... It would be very bad without them. The extremists know this and are doing everything to disrupt and destroy the "air bridge". The situation is that the "whirlybirds" can sneak up to the city from only one direction—from the west; everything here is within the range of the rebels and one can expect a burst of lead or a "Stinger" from every hollow. They fire on every, I repeat, on every helicopter. ..." The situation did not improve in May either. Soviet-Kabul sources said that Jalalabad airport came under "massive" Mujahideen fire on May 1, 3, 5, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 25, 26 and 28.

The days the Soviet-Kabul sources say the airport is being rocketted upon by the Mujahideen. Both Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul sources indicated increased activity on airports/airfields in recent months. In the third week of May, TASS and Radio Moscow reported that Kabul airport was under rocket attacks for several consecutive days. On May 17, Radio Moscow said that 21 rockets landed near the aircraft. ..."

On May 12, Izvestiya reported that the "irreconcilables" efforts continued "to build up their forces in Qandahar province ... to coordinate the actions ... in order to capture the airport. ..."

On their part, Mujahideen claimed that they attacked Qandahar airport on May 15, 18, 21, 22 and 25.

3 — PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Nimroz (also bordering Iran)

Nil report.

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: On May 4: A Kabul regime militia commander joined the Mujahideen with 400 men in the Grishk region. Commander Obaidullah Khan had at one time fought the occupation forces on the side of Mujahideen, but later switched over to the regime. While rejoining the Mujahideen he brought 5 armoured vehicles.

On May 25: Mujahideen attacked security posts around Lashkargah, provincial headquarters. Four 'observation towers' were destroyed. Two Mujahideen killed during fighting.

On May 26: Mujahideen continued firing rockets on Lashkargah. At least 8 soldiers/militiamen killed.

Kabul Times: Kamaluddin a ring leader of Rabani extremist group was killed in an operation conducted by the units of the armed forces in Hilmand province (KT: May 17, 1989).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: On May 1: Mujahideen fired rockets on Qandahar airport complex. A jet fighter and a helicopter hit.

On May 8: Heavy fighting continued east of Qandahar airport in the vicinity of Khushab village which Kabul regime forces were trying to take from Mujahideen.

On May 9: Nine militiamen killed during Mujahideen attacks on security posts in Qandahar city.

On May 11: Fierce fighting continued between Mujahideen and Kabul regime forces for Tor Kotal hill. Tor Kotal has changed hands several times and is currently held by the Kabul regime. In renewed fighting in this area after Eid-ul-Fitr more than 30 soldiers and militiamen were killed.

On May 14: Mujahideen shot down a transport plane near Qandahar airport.

On May 16: Mujahideen destroyed 2 regime tanks and captured 10 soldiers near Khushab.

A Mujahideen jeep hit a landmine planted by the regime. A Mujahid killed and 2 wounded.

On May 18: Mujahideen blocked Hilmand-Qandahar road.

A MiG-21 fighter was hit on while it was taking off from Qandahar airport. One report said that the aircraft was flown by a "Hindu", identified as Paretam Lal. His body was recovered from the plane's debris south-west of the airport. He was supposed to have been an Indian, and earlier deployed at Mazar-i-Sharif. Mujahideen reported earlier that a team of aircraft pilots has been sent to Afghanistan from India and was participating in operations against them.

On May 20: Mujahideen fired at a jeep in Darwazi Edigah area. Five KHAD (Secret Service) officers were killed.

Thirty-two other regime soldiers/militiamen were killed when Mujahideen conducted a severe rocket attack on Qandahar airport. A fuel tank and an aircraft were hit.

On May 21, 23 and 24: Mujahideen continued rocketing targets

in the airport and Qandahar city suburbs.

On May 26: Seventeen regime soldiers/militiamen defected to Mujahideen in Shushab area.

On May 27: Twenty-two regime soldiers/militiamen defected to Mujahideen in airport area.

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen have intensified their attacks to gain control of the Qandahar airport. According to the Mujahideen sources, they have succeeded in capturing Mola Abdullah and Qazi Kariz areas for which they have been fighting since 15 March. These areas are situated five to ten km from Qandahar airport (May 2, 1989).

The Afghan Mujahideen have shot down a fighter aircraft of Kabul in the early days of last week and its crew members and two other occupants were killed. Sources close to the Mujahideen said that the aircraft was shot down soon after it took off from Qandahar airport and fell on the south-western part of the airport. One of the crew members was an Indian who was sent to Afghanistan in order to assist the Kabul regime (May 26, 1989).

Radio Tehran: A source of the Afghan Mujahideen has reported that during their fresh attack on Qandahar airport, the Mujahideen killed eleven Kabul regime troops and shot down one MiG aircraft, last Thursday. The pilot of the aircraft, who was an Indian, was also killed (May 21, 1989).

The Afghan Mujahideen have killed the Chief of KHAD in Qandahar province alongwith four other troops of Kabul regime. Sources close to the Mujahideen said that the Mujahideen launched an attack on the Eidgah area of Qandahar province last Monday in which one tank was destroyed and all eight troops of Kabul regime on board were killed. Similarly, thirty-two Kabul regime troops were killed and seventeen others injured when the Mujahideen fired a missile on Qandahar airport. The Mujahideen also shot down a fighter aircraft besides destroying one tank and two vehicles of Kabul regime. Recent reports from Afghanistan said that the Mujahideen attacked Qandahar airport and security posts of Kabul regime troops in the outskirts of Qandahar city as a result of which sixteen troops of the Najibullah regime were killed and eight others wounded (News-Pushto-Urdu: May 23, 1989).

BBC: War Situation in Qandahar: We have a telephonic interview with Mr. Hamid, the political adviser of Jabha Nijat-e-Milli in Quetta, Pakistan. First we asked him about the situation in Qandahar:

Hamid: The Afghan Mujahideen have planned to carry out attacks on the airbase and garrison to capture Qandahar. They would not attack the city because civilians are living there and the Mujahideen do not want them to suffer casualties and losses. The Mujahideen would

target only military installations.

Compere: Why have the Mujahideen focussed attention on the airbase?

Hamid: The airbase is a big military base and if the Mujahideen capture the garrison, the city will automatically fall to them.

Compere: Recently there had been rumours in Britain that the former Afghan King Zahir Shah was to land in Qandahar airbase. Is it true?

Hamid: The report is absolutely wrong and false.

Compere: It is said that a Supreme Council has been formed in Qandahar. What is the role of the Seven Leaders in this Council?

Hamid: The Qandahar Shoorā has been formed by local Commanders and commanders operating in Qandahar are members of this council.

Compere: Irrigation system in Qandahar has been damaged due to ten-year long war. The United Nations wants to help in this regard. What will be the stand of the Mujahideen in this connection?

Hamid: This is reconstruction work of the country. Why the Mujahideen would oppose reconstruction of their country. In fact, they support and favour this programme. But the United Nations should do it for the people of Afghanistan and not for Najibullah government.

Compere: For example, if the United Nations allocates money for it, would the amount be spent in proper way?

Hamid: An institution should be formed for this job in which Mujahideen leaders, and representatives of the villages and people be included.

Compere: What will be the role of the Mujahideen if the United Nations wants to cooperate and assist in mines clearing?

Hamid: The Mujahideen have taken part in the ten-year long Jihad. They are well aware of the areas of Afghanistan. Besides, they also know the areas where these mines have been laid. The Mujahideen are familiarised with the entire areas inside Afghanistan, therefore, they can provide information to the people of the dangers of these mines and can also help in defusing them (Current Affairs—Pushto: May 9, 89).

VOA: The Quetta-based VOA Dari correspondent has interviewed Captain Said Abdul Karim, the military advisor of Harkat-e-Inqilab-e-Islami Afghanistan regarding the on-going activities of the Mujahideen in Qandahar province. Here are excerpts of the interview:

They attack Kabul regime troops and their positions anywhere they wanted. But since the formation of their government, they are carrying out joint operations. They launched joint operations on Qandahar airfield and other areas on Saur the 1st. On Saur 12th almost

ninety commanders of different organisations pledged that they would carry out organised operations under the leadership of the united command of the interim government. There existed a number of differences among the commanders, but now the differences have been resolved and all the Mujahideen are executing their operations under a united command. About the civilians living inside Qandahar city and its suburbs Captain Karim said, the United Command of the Mujahideen has decided that the citizens should quit the city before the Mujahideen launch offensive. A large number of people are expected to leave the city and the Mujahideen would make arrangements of food commodities for those remaining in the city. Regarding the United Command in Qandahar, Said Abdul Karim said, the Defence Ministry of the Mujahideen interim government has taken all the military affairs in its hands through out Afghanistan. According to the new decision, Al-Haj Maulvi Muhammad Safi has been appointed Chief of the War Affairs in Qandahar and all the Mujahideen in Qandahar province, would strictly abide by the orders of the Chief of War Affairs. About important operations of the Mujahideen in Qandahar Captain Said Abdul Karim said, under the directive of their Defence Ministry the Mujahideen carried out organised and joint operations in Qandahar on Saur 12th. Under a United Command and in their organised and joint operations, the Mujahideen destroyed a Kabul regime MiG aircraft on Saur 14th besides destroying Margala and Khoshad security posts near Qandahar airfield. Twenty-four officers and troops of these posts joined the Mujahideen side along with their weapons. Similarly, on Saur 19th, the Mujahideen used different weapons in shelling on Qandahar airfield from Khoshab area two kilometres from the airfield, destroying one jet plane and a helicopter besides damaging an ammunition dump and a fuel reservoir. Concluding, Said Abdul Karim said a number of mistakes were committed at the start of Jalalabad fighting. But now the Mujahideen would try their level best to avoid mistakes and would carry out their operations in an organised manner. The Qandahar operations would be an organised one and by the grace of Almighty Allah, the Mujahideen would achieve victory very soon (Interview—Pushto: May 14, 1989).

Radio Kabul: In the light of President Najibullah's message to the families of commanders of the opposition armed bands in the country, 25 groups headed by Yar Mohammad have declared support to the national reconciliation policy and abandoned anti-government activities in Daman Uleswali of Qandahar province. The Military section of Bakhtar news agency reported that the group was received warmly. The leader of the group promised to make every effort for the main-

tenance of peace and national reconciliation policy (News—Pushto: May 4, 1989).

Sixteen rebels were killed and twenty others wounded in Qandahar province while ten terrorists were killed in Herat province (News—Pushto: May 5, 1989).

Another report said that the terrorists also shelled residential areas in Khost and Qandahar. The shelling caused no human loss (News—Pushto: May 6, 1989).

As a result of the military operations in Qandahar province, 7 extremists were killed and 22 others were injured (News—Pushto: May 17, 1989).

During successful operations of the armed forces in Qandahar province, 13 extremists were killed (News—Pushto: May 24, 1989).

In Qandahar province, during mopping-up operations, ten extremists were killed and a number of others were injured (News—Pushto: May 27, 1989).

In Qandahar province, twenty-six extremists were killed and forty-three others injured. Two ammunition depots of the enemy were also set on fire (News—Pushto: May 30, 1989).

In the mopping-up operations in Qandahar province, 29 extremists were killed, besides injuring a number of others (News—Pushto: May 31, 1989).

Kabul Times: Reports said that Pakistan-backed extremists fired, heavy machineguns on Khost division and Qandahar and Herat provinces but no casualties have so far been reported (KT: May 10, 1989).

Radio Moscow: The Afghan army has carried out a series of attacks on rebel units based in Qandahar and Farah provinces killing approximately 40 extremists (News—English: May 18, 1989).

The Afghan Foreign Ministry has reported that a group of Saudi military advisors tried to desecrate the graves of Mujahideen in Qandahar province. Commanders of six armed groups however arrested the Saudi nationals and killed them on the spot (News—Pushto: May 24, 1989).

Zabul

Nil report.

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: On April 28: Mujahideen captured security post at Senjetak, west of Ghazni city. Five militiamen were killed and 5 surrendered. Mujahideen also lost 2 fighters.

On April 30: A high KHAD (Secret Police) officer identified as

Imam-ud-Din and Kabul army brigadier, Abdur Rehman, joined ranks of Mujahideen (somewhere) in Ghazni province. They came together in a jeep. Two medical officers in regime service also crossed over to Mujahideen.

On May 15: Mujahideen attacked and captured a military post on the Kabul-Ghazni road near Ghazni city. A tank destroyed. More than 20 regime soldiers/militiamen were killed and wounded during the missile attack.

Paktika

Nil report.

Paktiya

Mujahideen sources: On May 2: Mujahideen over-run security post at Murghan, Khost district.

On May 7: In an offensive against 59 Brigade of Kabul army stationed in the vicinity of Nadir Shah Kot, Mujahideen killed 60 regime soldiers and militiamen. Another 35, including a high officer, surrendered. Mujahideen also destroyed 3 tanks and 9 heavy guns. An army camp at Ali Sher was ransacked.

On May 10: The Kabul regime garrison at Nadir Shah Kot came under renewed attacks of Mujahideen.

On May 13: Mujahideen captured security posts at Lakand, Ub-khel, Mandikhel, Sacki and Sarki, north of Khost city.

On May 20: An Antonof-32 aircraft was hit on the Khost airfield.

On May 22: Mujahideen and Kabul regime troops fought bloody battles about one kilometre from the centre of the Khost city and cantonment. Earlier Mujahideen "suppressed" two "important regiments" called Jandad and Malang, in Dargi district. The attacks on Khost were launched jointly by various Mujahideen groups.

While the Mujahideen were pressing on with their attack on Khost, six rockets, two of them Scud rockets, landed near Mujahideen positions south of Nadir Shah Kot, resulting in the demise of a number of Mujahideen. The other 4 rockets were described to be 'Oregon' rockets. Mujahideen assault on Khost was called off when they felt 'shortage' of ammunition.

On May 25: A famous Mujahideen commander, Manan Kochi, was killed while leading his men in Lakan district. His jeep hit a landmine planted by the regime outside one of the security posts the Mujahideen had captured. Another 7 freedom fighters died along with Manan Kochi.

The passing away of Kochi did not dampen the spirits of Mujahideen and they continued advancing on the enemy and ultimately cap-

tured 3 more security posts. This yielded them many more prisoners and arms and ammunition.

On May 28: Soviet-made fighter/bombers heavily bombarded Mujahideen positions around Khost city and cantonment which remained under siege of Mujahideen. There were casualties among the Mujahideen and civilian population as a result of these bombings. A number of wounded were carried to Peshawar (city of Pakistan) for treatment.

VIRA: In an attack on Khost military Division the Afghan Mujahideen captured six military posts and a military base of the Kabul troops. The Afghan Mujahideen sources said in the operation which took place on 14th May, 250 Kabul regime troops were made captive and four tanks as well as 86 vehicles of the Kabul troops were also seized by the Afghan Mujahideen. On the other hand some Afghan Mujahideen sources have reported that Afghan Mujahideen were planning to launch an offensive on Kabul and Khost (May 18, 1989).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen during another operation carried out on Paktiya Governorate, destroyed a large number of trucks, besides capturing 130 troops (News—Pushto: May 10, 1989).

In their attack on Khost military garrison the Afghan Mujahideen captured six security posts and a military base of Kabul regime troops. A report of Afghan Mujahideen information source said that the attack was carried on 14 May and 250 Kabul regime troops along with four tanks and 86 military vehicles were captured by the Afghan Mujahideen (News—Persian: May 15, 1989).

BBC: The Afghan Government has said that the guerillas have diverted their attack to southern border city of Khost, instead of Jalalabad. A spokesman said that more than seven hundred guerillas were killed on Monday when the Government troops repulsed the attack with artillery fire and air bombing. The spokesman added that the Government troops have fired many long-range missiles from their bases inside Kabul, north of Khost nearly 250 miles away. Kabul Radio said that three persons were killed in the capital yesterday when guerillas fired seven rockets on the city (News—Urdu: May 17, 1989).

VOA: Quoting two resistance parties, Afghan Media Resource Centre reported that Mujahideen captured five posts of the Government troops, east of Khost garrison in Paktiya province on Saturday. Two tanks and five mortar guns of the Government troops were also destroyed during the fighting. Mujahideen also captured a huge quantity of arms and ammunition. Mujahideen had launched a big offensive on Khost two weeks ago but there was a lull in the fighting after capturing Ali Sher town and some other bases of the Afghan Government troops.

These sources said that Mujahideen's direct attack on Khost garrison is continuing since Friday (May 11, 1989).

Mujahideen reported to have captured Government posts in Shankai, Shene, Dehri, Dargai and Malang areas, situated in the suburbs of Khost garrison in Paktiya province. Fifty Government troops were killed during the fighting. Eighteen Mujahideen were also killed during these fighting including commanders Shabbir Khan, Hamid Khan, Manan Kochi and Khalil Khan. A Mujahideen commander, Jamal Hashmi reported that Mujahideen during fighting in Malang and Dargai, on Thursday held captive four officers of the Government troops namely, Abdullah, Saboor, Ghulam Ahmad and Jamal Yar. Commander Jamal Hashmi added that one hundred and ten Government militiamen also defected to Mujahideen side (Radio Report—Urdu: May 28, 1989).

VOG: A Government spokesman said Government troops killed seven hundred and twenty-three Mujahideen guerillas attacking Khost, yesterday. Heavy fighting was said to be continuing around Khost (News—English: May 16, 1989).

Radio Netherland: The Afghan Government said four hundred and fifty people have been killed in the last three days fighting in and around the eastern cities of Jalalabad and Khost. An Afghan Government spokesman said in a rebel attack on the garrison city of Khost at the border with Pakistan, eighty guerillas and three civilians were killed. Khost and Jalalabad have been the scene of heavy fighting since Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in February (News—English: May 30, 1989).

Radio Australia: The rebels claimed to have over-run several Government posts around the city of Khost. Officials in Kabul have not confirmed this apart from saying the rebels suffered heavy casualties. The Afghan Communist forces hold the country's major cities but the rebels reportedly control more than ninety per cent of the countryside (News—English: May 28, 1989).

AIR: Seven hundred Afghan rebels were reported to have been killed yesterday when their attempt to capture Khost city failed. According to Radio Moscow the rebels have lost five hundred men a day earlier after they shifted their offensive from Jalalabad to Khost. It said the rebels resorted to heavy rocket shelling of Kabul and their main targets was the airport, where Soviet transport planes were delivering food and other supplies. Some of the rockets landed in civilian areas killing three people (News—English—Urdu: May 17, 1989).

Today's newspapers have prominently published a PTI report that the Kabul troops have also foiled the fresh big offensive on Khost by rebels. The report said that during the operation the Government

troops killed some one hundred and fifty Afghan rebels and wounded forty-five others in the vicinity of the city situated only ten kilometres from the Pakistan border. The report added that in the fresh offensive against the Khost city the Afghan rebels enjoyed full support of the Pakistani border militia besides the Saudi military advisors. However, Radio Moscow said that fierce fighting is still going on between the Kabul troops and Afghan rebels in the vicinity of the city (Jahan Numa—Urdu: May 19, 1989).

In Afghanistan the authorities claimed to have repulsed a severe attack by rebels on the eastern garrison town of Khost. Official Kabul Radio said artillery and aerial bombardments neutralised the rebel assault. It was the second time in a week that the authorities reported repulsing a major attack on this town. The radio said at least thirty rebels were killed in the latest attack. It also reported fighting around the towns of Jalalabad in the east and Qandahar in the south (News—English: May 20, 1989).

Radio Kabul: As a result of shelling of heavy arms by the extremists at Khost, two children were martyred and another one injured. Due to the counter-attack of the armed forces, twelve personnel of the enemy were killed and nine others were injured. Ten mules carrying arms and ammunition were also eliminated (News—Pushto: May 1, 89).

The armed opponents have also shelled residential areas in Paktiya, Herat, Qandahar and Khost Uleswalis which, however, caused no human loss. The opponents also shelled Gardez city in which thirteen people, including six children were martyred and nine others injured. A number of houses were also destroyed (May 2, 1989).

The rebels have been shelling some areas of Khost Uleswali for the last few days. The Afghan security forces returned the firing, killing thirty-eight rebels including six Pakistani troops and injuring twenty-seven others including foreign advisors (May 5, 1989).

In Khost Uleswali thirteen people were injured. Forty-five terrorists were killed and nine others injured when the armed forces shelled their positions in Khost (News—Pushto: May 7, 1989).

According to another report, during the successful operations of the armed forces in Khost Loi Uleswali, thirty armed extremists were killed and eighteen others were injured. Those killed include two ring leaders of the extremists and six Wahabis (May 10, 1989).

Another report from Khost said that the extremists launched a rocket attack on the residential areas of Khost Loi Uleswali, yesterday, which resulted in the killing of one person and injuring two others (News—Pushto: May 12, 1989).

Similarly, during the successful operations of the armed forces, in

which artillery and air force were used, 471 extremists were killed and seventy others were injured in Khost Loi Uleswali. One ammunition depot of the enemy was also destroyed (News—Pushto: May 15, 1989).

According to another report during yesterday's successful operations of the armed forces in Khost Loi Uleswali 150 extremists were killed and 45 others were injured. Most of those killed include Saudi Wahabi hirelings and Pakistani militiamen (May 17, 1989).

According to another report from Paktiya province, due to the artillery and air strike of the armed forces, eighty-seven extremists were killed and a large number of others were injured (News—Pushto: May 21, 1989).

Similarly during the successful mopping-up operations in Khost Loi Uleswali, twenty-eight extremists were killed and nineteen others were injured. Similarly in Herat province, two extremists were killed during the military operations (May 22, 1989).

Another report said that the Pakistan-backed terrorists also shelled residential areas in Khost Uleswali as a result of which two people were martyred and five others injured. Three hundred and seventeen opponents were killed when the security forces and the Afghan aircraft bombed positions of the terrorists in that area (May 23, 1989).

According to another report the joint enemy forces launched an attack on Khost from two sides yesterday. But due to the retaliatory operations of the armed forces, the enemy forces were compelled to retreat, suffering heavy losses in men and material. In the armed forces operations, 95 personnel of the joint enemy forces were killed and a number of others were injured. Those killed included fifty Pakistani militiamen and three leaders of the extremist groups (May 24, 1989).

Another report from Khost said that during the successful operations of the armed forces 122 extremists supported by Pakistan were killed and 76 others injured (May 31, 1989).

Radio Moscow: Kabul Radio reported that the armed opposition has been keeping some towns in eastern Afghanistan under a massive artillery barrage. Twenty-six people have been killed and dozens wounded, and many houses destroyed. Particularly heavy fire was aimed at Gardez, the centre of Paktiya province (May 3, 1989).

Fierce fighting continued in the eastern Afghan region of Khost between Afghan army troops and units of the armed opposition, involving Pakistani border guards and mercenaries from Saudi Arabia. Government troops have repelled all attacks launched by the insurgents. In the past twenty-four hours, over one hundred and fifteen insurgents have been killed and forty-five others injured (May 18, 1989).

Similarly, two people were killed including one child when terro-

rists attacked residential areas in Paktiya province. The Afghan security forces foiled a fresh attack of the terrorists in Khost Uleswali as a result of which ninety-five rebels were killed and many others injured. Those killed included fifty Pakistani militiamen. Twenty terrorists have also been killed in Qandahar province (News—Pushto: May 25, 1989).

Similarly, twenty-eight irreconcilable elements were killed besides injuring nineteen others in Khost Uleswali (May 25, 1989).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: On May 2 and 3: Soviet-made bombers/fighters continued severe bombing of Mujahideen positions around Jalalabad. Certain military establishments of the Najib regime within the defence parametres of Jalalabad also got hit by indiscriminate bombing presumably inadvertently.

On May 4: At least 20 helicopters ferry reinforcements to Jalalabad. The operation began at night. It seemed Kabul regime forces were planning to build up strength to counter-attack from Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, Mujahideen ambush a large military convoy on Kabul-Jalalabad road. At least two tanks and 2 trucks were hit. A large number of soldiers were believed killed. Thirteen regime soldiers were captured.

On May 7: Kabuli troops opened a four-pronged attack on Mujahideen positions in Khushgunabad lying on a junction of roads which join Jalalabad with Samarkhel and Sarobi on the Kabul-Jalalabad road.

On May 8: Kabuli troops attacked Mujahideen positions near Jalalabad airfield and Shaikh Misri (Surkhrud).

Mujahideen shot down a jet fighter east of Jalalabad airfield.

On May 9 and 10: More than 30 tracked and wheeled vehicles of the Kabul regime were destroyed over the past few days on, or in close vicinity of Kabul-Jalalabad road.

East of Daruanta Dam, the Mujahideen captured a security post manned by elements of the 9th Kabul Army Division.

On May 11: Kabul regime forces drive the Mujahideen out of Khushgunabad after a fierce battle.

On May 12: Mujahideen returned to Khushgunabad in a surprise attack. They killed a large number of regime soldiers. They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Soviet-made aircraft bombed Abdul Khel, Gamberi Dag and Khushgunabad.

Regime troops attacked Shaikh Misri (Surkhrud) area, but were thrown back.

An ammunition of the regime troops was destroyed (somewhere) near Jalalabad city.

On May 15: Over 800 wounded are reported to have been admitted to one of the relief hospitals near Pak-Afghan border in Pakistan since the beginning of the battle of Jalalabad.

On May 17: Kabuli troops launched another attack on Khushgunabad.

Khushgunabad, some 300 to 500 metres east of Jalalabad airport, is important to both Mujahideen and Kabuli troops for it lies on a strategic position on roads leading to Saracha, Samarkhel and Kariz Kabir and further on to Kabul.

On May 18 and 19: Mujahideen and Kabuli troops continued fighting in the immediate suburbs of Jalalabad.

Mujahideen knocked out 3 tanks in Abdulkhel area: and, blasted a security post in Qasaba. A tank was captured during the later operation.

On May 21: Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy near Khushgunabad.

On May 22: Fighting continued all around Jalalabad. Both Mujahideen and Kabuli troops suffered casualties.

Kabuli troops are supposed to have fired at least 20 Scud missiles on Mujahideen fortification in Ningarhar during the month of May upto 22; but they failed to hit their targets. There were not many casualties from these missiles among the Mujahideen. A large number of non-combatants were, however, killed and wounded.

On May 24: Mujahideen repulsed another Kabuli attack on Khushgunabad. This was preceded by aerial bombardment.

On May 25: Heavy fighting continued in Jalalabad and Darunta. Nine Kabul regime tanks, an armoured personnel carrier and 22 other vehicles were destroyed. A number of Kabul regime soldiers were also killed.

On May 26: Soviet-made aircraft bombarded Khushgunabad starting jungle fire near by. Flames could be seen from Jalalabad and Samarkhel. A number of people were killed in the surrounding villages. Bombardment on villages also destroyed many houses in Khiwa.

On May 28: Soviet-made Kabul regime aircraft aerially bombarded a village near Samarkhel. A Mujahideen pickup was hit.

On the same day, Mujahideen commander, Abdul Latif was killed in an exchange of fire in Chaparhar area.

On May 29: Three Kabul regime attacks on Mujahideen positions were thrown back "east of Jalalabad." There were severe exchanges of artillery fire in which both sides suffered casualties.

These Scud-B missiles landed near Jalalabad. They were supposed to have been fired from Kabul.

VIRA: Reports said that during their operations in the outskirts of

Jalalabad the Afghan Mujahideen have taken some military posts of the Kabul regime. During these operations 66 Kabul regime troops were killed and 44 others were made captive by the Afghan Mujahideen.

On the other hand the Kabul regime troops fired a number of ground-to-ground Scud missiles on a village near Jalalabad on Tuesday last, without causing any losses.

Jalalabad has been besieged by the Afghan Mujahideen for the last two months. But bombardment by the Kabul regime aircraft and lack of coordination among the ranks of the Afghan Mujahideen have been hindering them from capturing Jalalabad city (News—Persian: May 6, 1989).

During fierce fighting Afghan Mujahideen have inflicted heavy losses in men and material on Kabul regime troops on Jalalabad front during the last few days.

A report from Jalalabad said two Kabul regime jet-fighters were shot down, three control towers of the airport were destroyed and twenty-five Kabul regime troops were killed (News—Persian: May 22, 1989).

Recent reports said that the Afghan Mujahideen are firing missiles on Jalalabad airport. Similarly, the Mujahideen have killed eleven Kabul regime troops besides shooting down a Soviet-made MiG-27 aircraft on Saturday (May 26, 1989).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen are reported to have liberated ten military posts in the west of Jalalabad after fierce fighting with the Kabul troops. A Mujahideen commander told the IRNA correspondent that during the operation which was carried out on Sunday the Mujahideen also tried to destroy the 81st Military Brigade headquarters which is considered to be the only military base of the Kabul troops in the west of the Jalalabad airport (May 3, 1989).

Similarly, in another operation on Sunday last the Mujahideen fired rockets on the 9th Army Division of the Kabul troops as a result of which one tank was destroyed while an arms and ammunition dump was set on fire (May 3, 1989).

The Afghan Mujahideen, during an operation on Monday last, brought down a MiG-23 of the Kabul government forces.

Reports said that the aircraft attempted to shell Afghan Mujahideen positions in Jalalabad area when it was shot down (May 10, 1989).

In the course of their attacks on the positions of the Kabul regime troops in Shaikh Musavi area in the south-west of Jalalabad city during the recent days, the Afghan Mujahideen killed 27 Kabul troops and captured a number of security posts in the area.

The Mujahideen sources in Peshawar said the Kabul regime troops

fired Scud missile on the civil population of Ningarhar causing heavy losses to the residential area (News—Persian: May 12, 1989).

The Mujahideen also fired missiles on the military installations of Kabul regime in Jalalabad yesterday. The Kabul regime has confirmed casualty of 4 persons in this attack (News—Persian: May 26, 1989).

The Afghan Mujahideen foiled an attack on the Afghan armed forces in Khushgunabad area near Jalalabad. In the operation a security post was captured by the Afghan Mujahideen (News—Persian: May 29, 1989).

Radio Zahidan: Reports from Pakistan said the Muslim revolutionaries of Afghanistan carried out shelling around Jalalabad on Saturday. Western news agencies have described this attack on Jalalabad which has been under siege since March, as a big offensive. According to the report about three helicopters of the Kabul government brought weapons to the city on Saturday.

Meanwhile, 9 Soviet-made Scud missiles fell on Mujahideen controlled area around Jalalabad. According to Afghan sources heavy bombing has made the progress of Mujahideen towards the city difficult but Kabul government's claim of Mujahideen's retreat has been denied. According to the report, the Mujahideen seized two arms depots in Shaikh Misri area about ten kilometres in the west of Jalalabad. Reports from Kabul said that thousands of Mujahideen are preparing themselves to launch an attack on Kabul (News—Urdu: May 15, 1989).

BBC: In Afghanistan, President Najibullah's beleaguered government in Kabul has announced that its troops have mounted a successful counter-attack against rebel Mujahideen forces besieging the provincial city of Jalalabad. John Kipner of the New York Times has recently been with the Mujahideen near Jalalabad. On the line to Peshawar, across the border in neighbouring Pakistan, he gave Allan Mangegar his assessment of the government's latest claim of military successes:

John Kipner: I think that there was certain amount of scepticism. The Mujahideen here have issued a denial of the timing, that the government here would have given as an advantage, possibly of using the Eid holidays. Now it is possible that the Mujahideen have been at a very low ebb at that point. But from what I saw on the ground last week suggest that the claims of advancing twenty miles or so certainly seems very unlikely.

Allan Mangegar: Because, the Mujahideen on themselves have denied this, as you have said. Does this mean they have well dug in the area?

John Kipner: Very well dug in. They have turned from a guerilla army into a more regular formation. On the ground, they do have an

advantage of taking over the government fortified positions. Afghanistan is such a war like country that there is a series of outposts, defensive fortresses, as even private home have been build as fortresses. So those who were outside have got inside these places, where they have certain natural fortification. They have also managed to capture a very good amount of heavy equipment, including atleast one advanced Soviet tank, the BM-41, a lot of rocket launchers on a truck, a couple of other tanks and some armoured personnel carriers.

Allan Mangegar: Now at the same time that the government has reported this counter-offensive on the military sphere, there have also been reports of President Najibullah of being mounting a serious of diplomatic counter-offensive to win over Mujahideen groups. Mr. Najibullah is being given credit for a fairly sophisticated political offensive in terms that the Soviets have withdrawn, talking himself of being a nationalist and the Mujahideen as the stooges of a foreigners, that is, the United States and Pakistan (Twenty-four Hours-English: May 10, 1989).

Meanwhile, over the border in Jalalabad the Mujahideen claimed to have continued their attacks on Afghan army positions to the south, the west and the east of the city denying government reports that they had been pushed back. One Mujahideen source in Peshawar said that the guerillas have launched a concerted rocket attack on the city from all sides. This despite earlier statements from their leadership that they wanted to avoid civilian casualties.

The report said that the rockets had started several fires but there were no reports available about what was on fire on there had been any casualties. In the Kabul area one Mujahideen commander has predicted an early attack on the capital by thirty thousand guerillas massed for such an assault (Newsreel-English: May 14, 1989).

Today is the first anniversary of the beginning of the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. On this occasion British newspapers carry reviews on the present situation in Afghanistan.

In a report appearing in the Financial Times, Christina Lamb tries to ascertain as to why to Afghan Mujahideen failed to capture Jalalabad. She writes that now many supporters of the Afghan leader whose name she has not disclosed, she writes how the resistance groups can now call the Najibullah government a puppet government when half of the world is pulling strings behind the Mujahideen. The Mujahideen's stand was that peace could be secured only through war.

But now the number of people among the Mujahideen is increasing who have started talking of UN intervention for talks and for bringing an end to bloodshed. Christina Lamb writes that the US State Depart-

ment officials says that the attack on Jalalabad was a blunder and that a time will come when the policy will have to be reviewed. She further writes that some observers think that the Mujahideen should not spurn to offer of Najibullah to hold elections. If the Mujahideen adopt dilly-dalling tactics their position will become weaker and weaker. They might have to see a day when they accept this offer but Najibullah will refuse (Sairbeen-Urdu: May 15, 1989).

Afghan guerilla sources in the Pakistani city of Peshawar said a convoy bringing supplies from the Kabul Government to troops in the besieged eastern city of Jalalabad has broken through a guerilla blockade on the main highway.

The convoy, one of several is said to have got through in the past week.

The BBC correspondent in Pakistan said the guerillas ability to block the road appears to have weakened by disputes between two of their factions (May 15, 1989).

The Afghan Government said its forces have counter-attacked Mujahideen guerillas besieging two cities in eastern Afghanistan, Jalalabad and Khost, killing more than ninety of them.

A spokesman in Kabul said that the government forces were supported by helicopter gunships and artillery in their assaults on guerillas around Jalalabad which has been under siege for three months.

The government said that there had also been fighting in several other provinces.

News of the clashes came as Mujahideen commanders and leaders inside and outside of Afghanistan rejected the latest offer by President Najibullah who gave guerilla commanders regional autonomy in return for a ceasefire (News-Urdu: May 23, 1989).

VOA: In Afghanistan, rebels continued to hammer away government troops defending Jalalabad, but as VOA's Garry Thomas reports from Islamabad the Mujahideen are paying a heavy price for the Jalalabad siege.

Mujahideen sources said the rebels Sunday captured six more government posts five to six kilometres in the south-west of the city, relieving pressure on the attackers west of the city. The Mujahideen attacked Jalalabad in early March. Rebel sources said some supplies get through to the city's defenders over the past two weeks, despite Mujahideen efforts to intercept them. One Mujahideen commander said the rebels are under heavy bombardment by government war planes, with air attacks continuing every fifteen minutes for upto sixteen hours a day.

Casualty figures released Monday by the Mujahideen said they lost

fifteen hundred fighters in the past year. At least six hundred of them at Jalalabad alone. They claimed to have killed twenty-two thousand Soviet and Afghan government troops independently confirmed (Radio Report—English: May 1, 1989).

The details of despatches carried by the Daily New York Times about the situation of Afghanistan is presented by Qamar Abbas Jafferri:

In his despatch the correspondent of the Daily New York Times John F. Bunde writes from Kabul that a high ranking Afghan official has asked the Bush Administration to accept this fact that now the Mujahideen would not be able to occupy the strategically-located city of Jalalabad and now it has become essential to establish peace in Afghanistan through negotiations. This official is the Afghan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil. In his despatch the correspondent John Bunde adds that the Afghan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil told this to those western correspondents who had arrived in Jalalabad by a non-military helicopter. Before leaving for Kabul, these correspondents stayed in Jalalabad for several hours and Mr. Abdul Wakil said that after ten weeks of the Mujahideen attack on Jalalabad, the first visit of the western correspondents to that city was a proof that Jalalabad was fully under the control of government, the correspondent Bunde said that while referring to the policy adopted by the Bush Administration regarding the Mujahideen that they should be given more time, Mr. Abdul Wakil said the fact is that the Mujahideen have been given a lot of time and now nothing has been left for them for showing their performance. The correspondent writes, although the government has demonstrated its complete control over Jalalabad, yet the fact is that what creates doubts and suspicions about the efficiency of the government whether or not it will be able to supply foodstuffs and other requirements to Jalalabad.

In his meeting with the western correspondents the Afghan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil said that jet fighter aircraft were providing the security cover to the helicopters which had carried the western correspondent to Jalalabad and the return of these helicopters were suspended at one stage so that these jet fighters could attack Mujahideen who had gathered of National Defence Council, General Abdul Haq Aloomi said that the Military Command of Kabul had come to know that a big offensive against Jalalabad would be started on Sunday (Press Review—Urdu: May 12, 1989).

A number of sources separately reported that government troops, besieged in Jalalabad, made another attempt to throw back Mujahideen from Khushgunabad village, adjacent to north of Jalalabad airport on

Thursday. Afghan Islamic Press said that government besides capturing posts lost two posts. Afghan News Agency reported that Mujahideen captured a huge quantity of arms from these posts. According to another reliable source, three tanks, two military trucks and one BM-16 rocket launcher of the government troops were destroyed in the fighting. One Mujahid was killed and one wounded in this fighting. In the meantime, Mujahideen carried out an attack with long-range rockets on the oil depot situated on Musa Shafique hill, south of Jalalabad caught fire due to a Mujahideen rocket attack on Friday and the depot was reduced to ashes in two to three hours. The Afghan News Agency and Al-Bunyan News Service reported fierce fighting in Surkhrud area, south-west of Jalalabad on Friday. On Friday, seventy government troops were either killed or wounded at different places around Jalalabad whereas at least ten Mujahideen were killed and six others wounded. Eye-witnesses said in Peshawar that six wounded Mujahideen who were being brought to Peshawar were dead due to heavy bleeding (May 28, 1989).

The Washington Post correspondent, Richard Wynethrob in an analytical despatch from Pakistan has described the present situation of Afghanistan as a military and political lull and predicted fierce fighting in the coming months. Salahuddin Ahmad presents a summary of the report:

The correspondent, Richard Wynethrob writes that Afghan Mujahideen's movement was gaining momentum during the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan but Mujahideen have apparently struggling hard to maintain the pace of their movement after the pull out of Soviet troops as it was a cause of unity among their ranks. The correspondent has drawn attention towards the fact that Mujahideen have failed in their efforts to capture the eastern city of Jalalabad after the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan on February 15 and consequently the happiness and confidence of their supporters has changed into dismay. Quoting analysts in Peshawar and Islamabad the correspondent reports that after melting of snow on mountains of Afghanistan, Mujahideen's capability will be tested regarding the extent they can exert pressure on the government troops in Qandahar, Khost, Herat, Shindand and Kabul. The Kabul government which has succeeded to utilise their resources while defending Jalalabad would be facing a challenge whether it succeeds to defend different areas simultaneously or not. The correspondent adds that after their failure to capture Jalalabad, the Mujahideen are once again using their earlier tactics and Mujahideen's number who have besieged Jalalabad city is decreasing. According to the report, at least for the time being, the morale of the

Najibullah government is high because its troops repulsed Mujahideen's attacks on Jalalabad and Moscow has fulfilled its promise to supply large quantity of arms to it. Quoting reports from Kabul, the correspondent writes that more than one hundred new tanks, artillery and other military hardware reached Afghan capital last week. Richard Synethrob adds that performance of the Afghan Air Force, which has got important success in bombing in the suburbs of Jalalabad, has strengthened the Najibullah government. According to the report, on the one hand Generals of Kabul government and political leaders are demonstrating new confidence and on the other people who recently came from Kabul and those who are well aware of political and economic facts have different views. In this connection, the correspondent while citing instance of Afghan currency writes that three months ago, a dollar was equal to two hundred Afghanis but now it is equal to three hundred Afghanis. The correspondent quotes the analysts as having said that despite all these things, the successful defence of Jalalabad will have psychological impact. There is a possibility that on the one hand, fierce fighting would be taking place in Afghanistan and on the other, heated debate on policy would be continuing in Islamabad, Washington, Moscow, Kabul and among different factions of Afghan Mujahideen. According to the correspondent, after ending of its war with Iraq, Iran has provided sixty thousand arms to the Shia guerillas taking positions in Central Afghanistan and according to a diplomat, a large number of people would be killed during the next two months. According to the Richard Wynethrob intensity of the dangerous situation is reflective of the warning given by President Najibullah that it might be possible that Soviet-built Scud missiles can hit Mujahideen strongholds in Pakistan. The correspondent writes that despite possibilities of fierce fighting, things are happening to resolve the Afghan issue through talks. Pakistan's military leadership made continuous efforts over many years for military success of the Mujahideen, but Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto in a recent interview has said that she would prefer to a political solution of the problem through she stressed that Najibullah government would not be acceptable as a partner of the Mujahideen. According to the Washington Post report, Ms. Benazir Bhutto by changing the ISI Chief has showed that she preferred to resolve the Afghan issue through talks. Quoting Pakistani and western diplomats, the correspondent writes that the Soviets have given no indication to decrease their support to Najibullah government and they insist that Najibullah's party should have dominating role in any new government. Though scattered voices against continuation of military support to the Mujahideen are raised in Washington these days yet according to the corres-

pondent, leading officials of Bush administration have not at all given up the policies of the Reagan administration. The correspondent quotes a diplomat as having said that during Ms. Benazir Bhutto's visit to Washington, she would be asked to increase support to the Mujahideen in the coming fighting. According to the Washington Post report, Pakistani officials who have supported the Mujahideen interim government are very much upset over disunity among the Mujahideen on important issues (Press Review—Urdu: May 28, 1989).

AIR: In Afghanistan, the rebel positions around Samarkhel and Jalalabad have come under severe attack by the government troops.

Reports said heavy air and artillery attacks devastated the entire Jalalabad city.

President Dr. Najibullah has appealed to the Afghan refugees abroad to return home and join the restoration of peace process.

Addressing the nation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, he renewed his call to the rebel leaders to settle all disputes at the negotiating table.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has denied the allegation that it has supplied chemical weapons to the Afghan government (News—English: May 7, 1989).

A significant press report said that Kabul government has claimed to have broken rebels siege around Jalalabad. Kabul regime also claimed that the government troops have increased pressure against Afghan rebels in other parts of the country as well. Quoting Radio Moscow broadcast, a spokesman of the Afghanistan government is reported to have said that in some areas rebels have been compelled to retreat upto forty kilometres.

Quoting its correspondent, V.T. Joshi from Islamabad a front-page report of the Times of India said that after two months terrific war and rocketeering, Kabul administration claimed to have freed Samarkhel garrison and broken the siege of Jalalabad. Quoting unconfirmed reports from Peshawar the despatch also said that Kabul government troops are rapidly advancing towards Pakistani border on Jalalabad-Torkham Highway to re-establish Najib government's hold in these areas of the country. The reports also revealed that ninety fresh convoys of arms and ammunitions have arrived in Jalalabad to foil any fresh onslaught of the Mujahideen (Jahan Numa—Urdu: May 11, 1989).

According to Radio Moscow, in a similar assault on the beleaguered city of Jalalabad, rebels suffered heavy casualties and were dislodged from their strongholds (News—English: May 16, 1989).

Reports from Kabul said over eighty rebels were killed in a raid by Afghan forces in the east of Ningarhar province.

The Soviet news agency, TASS said four civilians were killed when

rebels shelled the residential areas of Jalalabad (News—English-Urdu: May 26, 1989).

Radio Kabul: Bakhtar news agency reported that the terrorists, with the support of Pakistani militiamen and Saudi Wahabis attacked areas in Samarkhel, Jalalabad city and airport with heavy weapons yesterday. As a result six civilians and one soldier were killed and eight others were injured. Thirty-one terrorists were killed and twenty-eight others were injured when the security forces returned fire in Ningarhar province. Those killed included two ring leaders of the rebels, five members of Pakistani militiamen and one Saudi (News—Pushto: May 4, 1989).

The military correspondent of the Bakhtar news agency has reported that joint forces of the Pakistani militiamen, Saudi Wahabis and the extremists affiliated with Pakistan continued violating the ceasefire in Ningarhar, Qandahar, Parwan and Herat provinces and in the Loi Uleswali of Khost yesterday. The Afghan security forces retaliated and kept the Kabul-Jalalabad and Kabul-Salang Highway open for normal traffic. The reports added that the armed opposition groups attacked residential areas and security posts in the suburbs of Jalalabad city yesterday as a result of which one civilian was killed and eight others injured. Fifty-one rebels were killed and seventeen others injured in Ningarhar province when the Afghan security forces attacked the hide-outs of the extremist elements. Those killed included the ring leader of the rebels, Bilal, four Pakistani militiamen and the Saudi Wahabi mercenaries (May 5, 1989).

The Pakistan-backed armed terrorists have again subjected to heavy shelling, residential areas of Ningarhar, Pakiya and Laghman provinces yesterday. However, these attacks were repulsed by the vigilant Afghan armed forces. The Defence Section of Bakhtar news agency reported that the terrorists fired a number of ground-to-ground rockets on Jalalabad city as a result of which two people were martyred and six others injured. Several houses were also destroyed. In retaliation, the armed forces killed sixty-one terrorists and injured twenty-eight others. They also destroyed a huge quantity of arms and ammunition of the terrorists (May 7, 1989).

The military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency reported that yesterday joint forces of the enemy attacked residential areas and security posts in the outskirts of Jalalabad city. The extremists also subjected Jalalabad airport to missile attack. The artillery of the 11th and 18th Divisions of the Pakistan Army also backed the extremists from the rear lines of the war-front, which resulted in the killing of four civilians and three armed forces personnel, injuring fourteen others.

Two centres of social welfare, nine houses, six shops and four private vehicles were destroyed due to the rocket shelling of the enemy. The report added that in retaliation, the Afghan armed forces foiled and repulsed the attacks of the enemy. In the artillery and air raids of the Afghan armed forces, forty-five extremists were killed and seventy-three others were injured and three ammunition depots were destroyed (May 12, 1989).

In the recent battle between the armed opposition groups and the government of Afghanistan, eleven nationals of Saudi Arabia have been killed, reported the UNI agency quoting the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in New Delhi. The Ambassador further said that two thousand volunteers from Arab countries among them Saudi Arabians are currently fighting alongside the armed extremists against the Government of Afghanistan. He also admitted that the group of volunteers is led by Saleem Bin Madeen who has been recently wounded as a result of rocket attack in Jalalabad (May 15, 1989).

A spokesman of the armed forces has told Bakhtar news agency that the armed extremist groups under the cover of shelling by the artillery units of the 11th and 18th Divisions of the Pakistan armed forces, opened fire at Jalalabad and its suburban residential areas of the city from the rear lines of the front, which resulted in the killing of three citizens and injuring of nine others. Similarly due to firing of the extremists five houses and one Mosque were also destroyed. The heroic armed forces, in their counter-attacks on the positions of the extremists, caused heavy losses in men and material to the enemy. Due to the artillery and airstrikes of the armed forces, sixty-three personnel of the enemy were killed and forty-eight others were injured. Those killed and injured included three Pakistani militiamen and three Saudi Wahabi hirelings. Two ammunition depots and two military vehicles carrying arms for the extremists were also destroyed (May 22, 1989).

The Afghan armed forces today carried out a series of successful mopping-up operations in the suburbs of Jalalabad city and inflicted deadly blows to the extremist forces and Wahabi and Pakistani aggressors in the eastern sector of the province. The military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency reported that in their attacks on the enemy positions, the Afghan armed forces captured scores of trenches of the aggressors. Today's operations were remarkable because of the fact that the enemy troops were beaten back at different war fronts and were compelled to leave the battlefield. Fifty-five personnel of the joint enemy forces were killed and scores of others were injured. Those killed mostly included Pakistani aggressors and Wahabi hirelings, who were later buried by the Afghan Government troops (News—Pushto: May

30, 1989).

Radio Moscow: The opposition is also preparing with Pakistan's direct support to step up operations to capture Jalalabad. President Najibullah has said in Kabul that Pakistan is planning to involve fifteen thousand Pakistanis dressed in Afghan uniform in the operations (News—English: May 3, 1989).

Saturday marks two months since the Afghan anti-government forces began their offensive on Jalalabad. They had planned to seize it in a few days. The city however, is still holding-out though attempts to capture it continue. Major General, Mohammad Ismail of the General Staff of the armed forces of Afghanistan told the correspondent of the Soviet National Daily PRAVDA about the situation in and around the city. From three to five thousand rockets are fired on Jalalabad every day. More than five hundred civilians have been killed during the siege and the number of wounded is several times bigger. They are mainly women and children. Over two hundred buildings have been destroyed or badly damaged. That includes the university, the archeological Museum a number of mosques and other purely civilian buildings which have large historical value. Hundreds of clay-houses in which the bulk of the city's population lives, have been razed to the ground by shells and rockets. The enemy has massed around Jalalabad from thirty-two to thirty-five thousand men armed with upto two hundred and sixty artillery pieces, some five hundred mortars and many hundreds of rocket launchers. Lately, the number of foreign mercenaries and foreign military advisors have increased sharply, because more and more field commanders of the armed opposition groups refused to take part in the fighting near Jalalabad. The defenders of the city are successfully beating off the attacks and re-inforcements are sent to them regularly. Major General, Ismail said the city is supplied with weapons and food, flour, fat or sugar brought by trucks. Only a few days ago two hundred trucks arrived with food supplies. Observers said that the failure of the offensive near Jalalabad has led a transitional Government formed by the opposition into a military and political blind alley (Focus on Asia and the Pacific—English: May 5, 1989).

The Afghan government troops yesterday launched a heavy counter-attack on the positions of armed Afghan opposition in Jalalabad area. A representative of the Afghan Foreign Ministry, Muhammad Nabi Amani said that more than fifty counter-revolutionaries were killed or wounded as a result of the attack. He said that opposition contingents fired a number of missiles on Jalalabad. Mr. Amani said that Afghan government troops have ended the siege of important portion of the road that links Kabul with Jalalabad. Mr. Amani accused

Pakistan of openly supporting the counter-revolutionaries (News—Urdu: May 10, 1989).

Reports from Afghanistan said last Sunday's rebel attack on the eastern city of Jalalabad was a failure, government troops which beat off all the rebel offensives had dislodged the Mujahideen from their earlier strongholds. More than one hundred and thirty rebels were killed and dozens wounded following counter-offensives and air-strikes by government forces (May 16, 1989).

Afghan government troops have established control over the strategically important region of Samarkhel near Jalalabad. The region was held for some time by rebels besieging the city. It was announced at a press conference in Kabul by Foreign Ministry spokesman. He also said that government forces in recent operations have pushed back rebels fifteen to twenty kilometres from their former positions (News—English: May 31, 1989).

Kunar

Nil report.

Nooristan

Nil report.

Provinces Bordering Soviet Union

Badakhshan (also bordering Pakistan)

Mujahideen sources: On April 29: Two Kabul regime tanks were hit and destroyed with rockets (somewhere) in Badakhshan province.

On May 7: Mujahideen stormed and took two Kabul regime security posts near Faizabad. Ninety soldiers/militiamen surrendered to Mujahideen with their weapons.

On the same day, a Mujahideen party passing through a snow field in the mountainous region met with an "accident" and 7 of them were killed.

On May 15: A large number of Kabul regime soldiers joined the Mujahideen ranks near the provincial headquarters, Faizabad. They brought with them two pieces of cannon, one BM-13 multiple rocket launcher, and two mortars, among other things. Their commander, a colonel, cited Kabul regime atrocities and indiscriminate bombing to non-combatants as the reason for shifting loyalties.

On May 20: Soviet-Kabul troops tried to 'recapture' a place called Koocha on some river bank. Their ground forces were supported by armoured vehicles and aircraft. The attack was repulsed. The Soviet-

Kabul troops lost a tank. One of the attacking aircraft was also shot down.

Takhar

Radio Tehran: A jet fighter which was bombarding the positions of Afghan Mujahideen in Takhar province was shot down by the Mujahideen on Saturday last (News—Persian: May 23, 1989).

Fierce fighting is continuing between the Mujahideen and Kabul regime forces in Takhar province. The Mujahideen also shot down a military aircraft (News—Pushto: May 24, 1989).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: On May 10: Mujahideen attacked a fuel depot at Sher port on Oxus river, hitting a number of tankers and tractors. They also attacked security posts in the port area.

On May 12: Mujahideen repulsed a Kabul regime offensive in Imam Sahib district which has been under Mujahideen control for about a year. Mujahideen said some tanks which participated in this operation had come from across the border from the Soviet Union via Sher Khan port.

The regime troops retreated to the Kunduz city after losing at least 3 tanks and many fighters.

On May 14 and 15: Soviet-made aircraft bombarded Char Dara district.

On May 19: Mujahideen fired rockets on Kunduz airfield. Some installations and vehicles were hit.

On May 20: A jet fighter shot down with stinger missile near Kunduz airfield.

On May 21: Mujahideen renewed missile attack on Kunduz airfield.

Radio Tehran: In Kunduz province, the Afghan Mujahideen have killed 60 troops and made captive 65 troops of Najibullah regime in attacks on security posts (May 26, 1989).

AIR: Newspapers have prominently published a report from Kabul on their first pages saying that four most prominent field commanders of the rebels have joined the government of Najibullah. This is a severe blow to the rebels fighting against the Afghan government. The report said that another field commander in Ghor province, Toran Tahir has also agreed to local ceasefire with his 1,800 soldiers. Similarly Commander Mohammad Hassan in Baghlan province has also agreed to ceasefire with 1,900 men. Haji Mohammad Hamza with 21,000 supporters and Haji Sabazwari with 500 followers in Kunduz province have

agreed to ceasefire (Jahan Numa—Urdu: May 25, 1989).

Radio Kabul: As a result of the firing at Kunduz city by the extremists, two civilians were killed and four others injured (News—Pushto: May 22, 1989).

In Kunduz, the security forces have killed six extremists and injured seventeen others (News—Pushto: May 23, 1989).

Another report from Kunduz province said, a twenty-one member armed group has surrendered to the security officials in Chardarrah Uleswali of that province (News—Pushto: May 29, 1989).

Kabul Times: According to another report from Kunduz province 22 extremists including three ring leaders were killed, 28 others injured and one BM-1 unit, two recoilless guns, one doshaka, one communication unit, two vehicles, several assorted weapons 21,000 assorted cartridges and, 28 rocket launchers captured in an operation carried by the units of the armed forces in Hazrat-i-Imans district.

Similarly, five men of the armed extremist group joined to the armed forces and seven others were arrested in this operation (KT: May 17, 1989).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: On May 2: Mujahideen attacked transport on Salang Highway near Khanjan.

On May 11: Mujahideen attacked security posts guarding Baghlan city, a tank and a truck were hit and set ablaze.

On May 16: Mujahideen attacked regime troops in and around both the old and new sections of Baghlan city. Some security posts manned by KHAD were taken. At least 13 KHAD agents were killed. A number of Mujahideen were also killed during fighting. Security situation in Baghlan city was described as extremely precarious from the regime's point of view: and, they were reported to be shifting Government offices from the provincial headquarters to Pul-e-Khumri.

On May 17: Soviet-made aircraft bombarded Mujahideen positions and villages in Chishm Qura, Sher and Darzak areas.

Mujahideen and regime troops clashed in Dara Kayan sub-district.

Mujahideen attacked troops and transport in Baghlan city.

On May 20: Mujahideen attacked security posts in and around Baghlan city.

On May 22: Mujahideen attacked supply convoy on Salang Highway near Khanjan. Thirteen lorries loaded with food and arms and ammunition motoring down from Hairatan were captured.

On May 25: Mujahideen continued attacking military convoys on the Salang Highway near Baghlan and Khanjan.

On May 26: Soviet-made aircraft attacked Mujahideen positions along the Salang Highway, killing at least 13 freedom-fighters.

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen captured five security posts of the Kabul regime near Baghlan city last week. In the operation 14 Kabul troops were killed and 8 others wounded (News—Persian: May 20, 89).

Kabul Times: Khan and Qasim, two ring leaders of the extremists were killed, four others arrested and a recoilless gun, one mortar, one doshaka, two heavy machine guns and a communication unit captured in an operation conducted by the armed forces in Baghlan province (KT May 16, 1989).

Samangan

Kabul Times: Twelve Afghan families consisting of 70 members who were living in a miserable condition in the area under the control of the extremists returned to their native home as a result of the enlightening activities of the Tsarandoy personnel of the Samangan province to the related area of Hazrat-i-Sultan sub-district.

The repatriates were warmly welcomed by the Tsarandoy commander of the province who promised all necessary government assistance in getting them resettled in their living conditions.

Then some repatriates spoke on behalf of others expressing their thanks for the assistance of the government and they pledged their readiness to ensure peace and security in their region (KT: May 14, 1989).

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: On May 6: An explosion in the central arms and ammunition depot in Mazar-i-Sharif destroyed large number of tanks, trucks, and heavy and light weapons. Possibly 50 ammunition caches were ignited.

The depot continued burning for 2 days. It was located at Karta-e-Solh, about 5 kilometres from the centre of the city.

The explosion was triggered by a time-bomb.

On May 8: The regime 'retaliated' by indiscriminately bombarding Shadian and Marmol areas destroying many houses and killing men and beasts.

On May 11: Mujahideen attacked a military convoy on the road leading down to Kabul from the Soviet Union via Mazar-e-Sharif. A number of tanks and other vehicles were hit.

On May 17: A group of Kabul regime soldiers led by a colonel crossed over the lines and joined Mujahideen (somewhere) in Balkh province. They had belonged to the 18th Division of Kabul army.

On May 22 and 23: Mujahideen attacked regime troops and estab-

lishments in and around Balkh district.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen destroyed a big ammunition depot of Kabul regime in Mazar-e-Sharif on 7th May as a result of which tens of Kabul regime troops were killed and wounded. Mazar-e-Sharif is located in northern Afghanistan near the Soviet border. It is an important strategic base of Kabul regime troops (News—Pushto: May 17, 1989).

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: On May 12: Mujahideen captured a Kabul regime security post in Ashlaq district. Twenty-four klashnikov rifles, one mortar and some ammunition were captured from here. Two Mujahideen and 7 regime soldiers were killed in the fighting.

On May 18: An officer and 10 militiamen were killed during a clash between two groups of locally raised troops by the Kabul regime.

A large number of militiamen deserted and joined Mujahideen.

Radio Kabul: In response to the address of President of Afghanistan, Dr. Najibullah, to the commanders of the armed opposition groups in Loya Jirga, a group led by Afzal Shah comprising one hundred persons, announced its support to the National Reconciliation Policy, in Jozjan province. As a result one hundred families came down from the hills and moved to their homes (News—Urdu: May 24, 1989).

Sar-e-Pul

Mujahideen sources: On May 18: Mujahideen captured Faqeri, Qalae-e-Qashlaq and Asadabad posts in Sar-e-Pul district. Two Mujahideen commanders along with four other Mujahideen were killed in the fighting. On the other hand 52 regime militiamen were taken prisoner.

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: On May 2: Mujahideen attacked and captured a regime security post half a kilometre north of the provincial capital Maimana. They seized a sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition from the posts. Four Mujahideen were killed and 10 injured.

While the security post was under attack, Soviet-made aircraft consistently bombarded Mujahideen positions.

On May 4: Mujahideen fired rockets on Maimana airport and a military convoy in Chah Qasim area. A tank and 3 trucks loaded with arms and ammunition being taken towards Kabul were destroyed.

On May 8: Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime security posts in Daulatabad district, Mujahideen lost 2 fighters.

Badghis

Nil report.

Provinces Bordering Iran

Herat (also bordering Soviet Union)

Mujahideen sources: On May 3: Mujahideen attacked security posts in Obek district, 40 km east of Herat city.

On May 6: Mujahideen and Kabul regime troops clashed near Qala-e-Safida, Kushk district. Three soldiers killed.

On May 8: Mujahideen attacked Rebat Sangi district with 'heavy' weapons. The 'enemy' suffered heavy casualties; but no details were available.

On May 10: Mujahideen captured a truck laden with ammunition on the Herat-Torghundi road.

On May 15: Mujahideen attacked a military convoy on Herat-Torghundi road, destroying at least 10 vehicles.

A KHAD 'centre' in Rebat Sangi district destroyed with rockets.

VIRA: The Mujahideen have gained control over the entire sub-division of Gulran in Herat province. The sub-division fell to the Mujahideen after 24 hours of fierce fighting. Fifteen Kabul troops and three officers of the Kabul regime joined the ranks of the Afghan Mujahideen (May 18, 1989).

The Mujahideen have also killed three Kabul regime troops in Herat province when they attacked Government security posts (News-Pushto: May 26, 1989).

Radio Zahidan: The Afghan Mujahideen have killed the head of the Propaganda Committee of the Communist Party and ten other people in Herat. The Mujahideen also carried out an attack on Zandajani Governorate of Herat with missiles as a result of which the main building of the Governorate was destroyed (News-Urdu: May 15, 89).

Radio Tehran: The Pakistan-based Afghan Mujahideen sources have announced that the Mujahideen have captured Gulran, 112 kilometres north of Herat, after fierce battle with the Kabul troops.

A number of Kabul troops were killed during the attack on Gulran city.

According to the report, 45 Kabul troops including some officers joined the Afghan Mujahideen (News-Urdu-Pushto: May 15, 1989).

Radio Bangladesh: Afghan Mujahideen have captured a famous Afghan city in Herat province. According to Mujahideen sources Gulran district lies 110 kilometres north of Herat city and is near Soviet border (News-Urdu: May 15, 1989).

VOA: Another Mujahideen source in Quetta says the Kabul government troops in a surprise attack on the Mujahideen captured Khaifan hill near Shindand airport on Eid-ul-Fitr. The hilly post situated in Bherkoh area has also proved useful for carrying out shelling on Shindand city. Mujahideen has fired a number of rockets from this post two days before Eid. The source added that Mujahideen retreated from this post due to heavy attack by the government troops. The same day, Afghan airforce planes heavily bombed villages in Zeerkoh as a result of which 32 villagers were killed and a large number of houses were destroyed (Radio Report-Urdu: May 14, 1989).

According to a latest report received from North Western Afghanistan the Mujahideen in Herat province captured district headquarters of Gulran, thirty five kilometres south of border of the Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan, on second of this month after 24 hours of fierce fighting. Mujahideen sources in Quetta said that 45 troops and two officers of the government troops deployed in the town defected to the Mujahideen along with two trucks on arms. Some militiamen fled the town. Two Mujahideen were killed and another five wounded during fighting in Gulran (May 14, 1989).

Radio Kabul: The terrorists subjected residential area in Herat the heavy shelling. However, there was no loss of life (News-Pushto: May 8, 1989).

Similarly, three terrorists were wiped out when the security forces shelled their positions in Herat province (May 23, 1989).

During mopping-up operations in Herat province, four extremists were killed and three others injured (News-Pushto: May 26, 1989).

Kabul Times: One hundred of our countrymen who were living in foreign countries returned recently to Herat province.

BIA reported that, the repatriates were warmly welcomed and they stayed in peace guest houses of Herat province till their resettlement in their native region (May 20, 1989).

Farah

Mujahideen sources: On May 1: Mujahideen attacked and destroyed 2 security posts in Bala Bolak district. Six regime soldiers were killed and 16 captured.

Mujahideen also shot down a helicopter which was surveying their positions near Anardara town. It was hit with a missile.

Mujahideen captured 3 'armoured' vehicles in an ambush in Sharafat Koh area. They dynamited a security post.

On May 6: Mujahideen foiled a Kabul regime attempt to block a supply along the Afghan-Iranian border in Anardara district. Earlier 4

helicopters had ferried men and supplies to Anardara from where it was planned to attack Mujahideen positions on the route.

Mujahideen however, pre-empted regime troops and pounced on the 'enemy' in a surprise move. The commander of regime forces, Commander Haqdadi, was taken prisoner.

On May 11: Mujahideen fired rockets on Shindand airbase. Five jets were hit in the hangers and tarmac. Another aircraft was brought down with a stinger missile.

Radio Tehran: The Kabul regime aircraft attacked a hospital forty kilometres away from Shindand airbase during the last two days. Several people were killed and injured and a number of houses were also damaged (May 1, 1989).

Kabul Times: Severe fighting have been reported among the armed extremist groups in the related areas of Jowayan district, Farah province.

In the fighting, emanating from inner contradictions among extremist groups, 7 persons of Jowayan district have been killed and three of them have sustained severe injuries (KT: May 18, 1989).

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan

Nil report.

Ghor

Radio Kabul: In Ghor province, ceasefire agreement has been signed with sixty eight armed opposition groups in pursuance of national reconciliation policy. Meanwhile 47 armed opposition groups supported ceasefire in the province. Negotiations with eleven groups are continuing. This was stated by the Governor of the province, Ghiasuddin Anwari in an interview with correspondent of the daily PAYAM. It may be recalled that Ghiasuddin Anwari has been appointed Governor of the Ghor province on the demand of majority of opposition armed forces and armed people of the country as a result of National Reconciliation Policy. He said that a few days ago, six commanders of armed opposition of Ghor province had attended the Loya Jirga in Kabul, they represented 700 armed and 3,500 unarmed people (News-Urdu: May 13, 1989).

Uruzgan

Mujahideen sources: On May 15: Mujahideen fired rocket on security post around Tarinkot.

On May 26: A officer and twelve soldiers of the Kabul regime

defected to Mujahideen (somewhere) in Uruzgan province.

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: On May 2: Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy near Qarabagh, north of Kabul city, on the Salang Highway. More than 25 trucks and lorries full of arms, ammunition and food were seized by Mujahideen. Seven armoured personnel carriers were destroyed.

On May 4: A motorized military force supported by tanks and aircraft tried to clear the blockade portion of the Salang Highway in the vicinity of Qarabagh.

Kabul regime forces also attacked Mujahideen positions near Khwaja Muzaffar in Paghman district. The attack was repulsed.

On May 5 and 6: Mujahideen and Kabul regime troops continued to fight running battles over a wide area north of Kabul. They captured 2 tanks. A number of other tanks and vehicles were destroyed.

Mujahideen artillery pounds Sarobi on the Kabul-Jalalabad road. About 50 regime soldiers/militiamen were killed and wounded.

On May 7: Soviet-made aircraft bombed Mujahideen positions along the roads leading to Kabul from the north (Charikar-Parwan) and east (Jalalabad-Laghman/Ningarhar).

Mujahideen lost a BM-12 rocket launcher and a recoilless gun in the exchange of fire near Sarobi.

Mujahideen fired rockets on Kabul airport.

On May 8: Kabul regime ground forces, supported by tanks and aircraft continued exerting pressure on Mujahideen along the road connecting Kabul with other parts of the country.

On May 9 and 10: Kabul regime forces mount another major offensive to clear the north and east roads leading to Kabul.

Five Soviet-made tanks were destroyed near Tangi, along the Kabul-Jalalabad road. ...

Some reports suggested regime forces eventually succeeded in pushing their way past the impediments created on the road near Tangi.

Similarly, the regime forces were also able to carry some supplies from Charikar (Parwan province) to Kabul to partially relieve acute shortage of food in the capital.

Mujahideen commander (Waisuddin) and some non-combatants were killed by exploding landmines near Kota Ashero.

A situationer prepared by the Afghan Media resource centre said:

The Kabul regime has stationed three divisions around Kabul and

taken special measures to recruit more men into the armed forces for an expected struggle with the Mujahideen.

The divisions included 1st Division of Special Guard, 2nd Division of Sarandoy and 3rd Division of Khad which, comprise several militia companies.

The regime has stationed the divisions in three different points of the city, creating a triangular defensive wall. The security belt was formed well before April 27 when the regime celebrated the 11th anniversary of the 1978 communist coup.

Regime civilian personnel are busy digging trenches and positions on Kabul perimeter. The metal-lined trenches in these areas connect with one another by under-ground tunnels.

The regime divisions control an area stretching from Paghman to Sang Naweshta while Khad forces guard the area between Sang Naweshta to Deh Sabz. Sarandoy, a regime security force, covers the area from Deh Sabz to Shakardara.

The Mujahideen, aware of the activity, captured three Sarandoy units on their way from Kabul to Deh Sabz on a trench digging mission. Shovels and other digging tools were recovered from the men, who remain in Mujahideen captivity.

The report also said the number of Soviet advisors in Kabul has dramatically increased to 175 and the Soviet Embassy complex is preparing to accommodate more personnel.

Soviet military advisors fly daily to Qandahar and Jalalabad to oversee the operations there and fire Scud missiles.

The regime made a futile attempt to recruit personnel for Khad V, with 5,000 personnel, and Khad I, with 1,000 men. Both Khad departments left their offices to dodge drafting.

In recent weeks the regime has used students of the Military University to conduct house-to-house searches in Kabul, a move that has aroused tension and armed clashes.

The students were killed and three militiamen of the Special Guard were wounded in an armed encounter between a group of searchers and a militia company at Deh Dana in Kabul in early May.

A Mujahideen commander on Saturday said about 30,000 Mujahideen forces would launch a joint attack on Kabul (AMRC).

The Mujahideen have intensified pressure on the Kabul regime security belt surrounding the city.

Over a period of two weeks, four encounters took place between Mujahideen and regime security forces in the Shakardara, Paghman and Bagrami districts of Kabul. The Mujahideen eliminated three Kabul regime posts in Si Kamar area of Bagrami district. The Mujahideen also

attacked regime posts in Dasht-e-Chamtala of Shakardara district and Karez posts in Paghman district, killing 20 Kabul regime soldiers and capturing ten others (AMRC).

On May 15: Mujahideen fired rockets and missiles on Kabul airfield. Several aircraft were hit and destroyed alongwith some buildings.

Mujahideen exploded several bombs in government establishments in Kabul.

On May 17 and 18: Mujahideen fired rockets and missiles on selected military targets in Kabul, which included the airport, the Presidential palace and Qargha Cantonment.

They frustrated an attack by armoured units of Kabul regime forces at Chakri near Chehar Asiab, south of Kabul.

They also shot down a MiG-21 fighter while it was bombarding Mujahideen positions in Kohi Safi mountains. The plane was brought down with a Stinger missile.

Mujahideen have block the Charikar-Kabul road: consequently, the regime is using improvised 'dust' roads to by pass the Mujahideen and thus bring some supplies to Kabul from the Herat. These 'dust' roads pass through the Hotak Desert.

On May 30: Two Mujahideen commanders and 7 non-combatant civilians were killed when Soviet-made aircraft of the Kabul regime bombed Mir Bachakot and Shakardara districts. The Mujahideen commanders were: Shah Mir and Abdul Ghafoor. Another 'Assistant Commander' killed during the aerial bombardment was Sukharyar.

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen attacked a supply convoy of the Najib regime on Kabul-Jalalabad highway as a result of which 15 tanks were destroyed.

According to a report, the attack took place on 7th Saur and 20 Kabul troops were also killed and 32 others were made captive (News—Persian: May 4, 1989).

An information sources of the Mujahideen reported from Kabul that during the last ten days, they launched a series of attacks on three security posts of Kabul regime in Karez Mir area, 11 kilometres from Kabul city. A large number of enemy troops were killed or injured. The report added that a huge quantity of arms including 30 klashnikovs and one ground-to-ground rocket were captured (May 5, 1989).

The Afghan Mujahideen subjected the Kabul regime Ministry of Defence and the People's House in Kabul city to severe rocket attacks last week.

Reports reaching from Kabul said the attacks were conducted by the Afghan Mujahideen operating inside Kabul city and on Sanglakh on

27th and 28th April (News—Persian: May 8, 1989).

The Afghan Mujahideen have shelled Kabul and also fought with the Kabul regime troops trying to re-open the Salang Highway.

The Reuter news agency reported from Kabul that seven missiles landed in Kabul as a result of which two people were injured. Other missiles landed in the vicinity of Kabul. The Mujahideen have also attacked convoys carrying foodstuff and other essential commodities to Kabul from the Soviet Union (News—Persian: May 23, 1989).

The Muslim Mujahideen subjected the Karga military base and airfield in the west of Kabul city to a rocket attack last week. In this attack fifty personnel of the Kabul regime were reported to have been killed. Similarly, a day before this attack, the Muslim Mujahideen, in a guerilla ambush on a military base of the Kabul regime troops in Charasiab area of Kabul province, killed eight troops and injured a number of others (May 24, 1989).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen have attacked a military convoy of Kabul regime troops on Kabul-Jalalabad Highway carrying arms and ammunition three days ago. Their attack resulted in destroying fifteen tanks of the communist government.

Reports from Afghanistan said that one hundred Kabul regime troops were killed and thirty-two other surrendered to the Mujahideen during this operation (May 1, 1989).

The Muslim Revolutionaries of Afghanistan launched a missile attack on a military garrison and an airport of the city of Qarabagh situated in the west of Kabul city last week. According to an estimate at least fifty Kabul government troops have killed in the attack. The Muslim Revolutionaries a day before this operation, killed eight soldiers of the Kabul government and injured a number of others while blocking the movement of the enemy armoured vehicles in Charasiab area in north of Kabul (News—Urdu: May 20, 1989).

Meanwhile, IRNA has reported from Islamabad that the Mujahideen have attacked the military garrison and Qarabagh helipad in west of Kabul last week. However, there is no report about human loss. The Mujahideen have also killed eight Kabul regime troops and injured many others in their operations in Charasiab area in the south of Kabul (News—Pushto: May 21, 1989).

Sources close to the Afghan Mujahideen said that a chief of Bureau of the Bakhtar news agency, Mir Abdusamad Mirza has surrendered to the Mujahideen. He has said that he resented the atrocities of the Kabul regime (News—Pushto: May 22, 1989).

Six Kabul regime troops were killed and forty others made captive by the Afghan Mujahideen when they launched attack on the Afghan

capital, Kabul. Similarly, the Mujahideen fired missiles on Kabul airport and destroyed a number of aircraft of Kabul regime (May 24, 1989).

BBC: We had a telephonic interview in Peshawar about the latest situation in Afghanistan. First we asked Muhammad Anwar, the Commander of Jamiat-e-Islami in Sarobi area about Mujahideen's future strategy in the area as well as in the suburbs of Kabul.

Muhammad Anwar: We want, all the Mujahideen and their Commanders to launch a joint operation to capture Kabul security post. As the Jalalabad offensive did not prove very successful, we now want to organise our offensive against Kabul.

Compere: If you capture the officers or troops of the Kabul regime what will be your behaviour with them?

Muhammad Anwar: The Mujahideen have announced general amnesty. During our operations in December last year along the Kabul-Jalalabad Highway we captured almost four hundred Kabul regime troops, majority of them were officers. We had allowed all of them to go to their homes.

Compere: Would you like to give us latest information about Kabul-Jalalabad Highway?

Muhammad Anwar: The Afghan Mujahideen launched attacks on Kabul-Jalalabad Highway on Hamal 29 bringing it under control on the first day. So far, the Mujahideen have captured more than one hundred government troops besides seizing a large quantity of weapons. We have also captured seven posts in the area. The highway is now completely blocked and is in the Mujahideen's control.

Compere: Which portion of the highway is in your control?

Muhammad Anwar: From Sarobi to Laghman province is in the Mujahideen's control.

Compere: The Mujahideen have stinger and other anti-aircraft missiles. How Kabul regime helicopters are reaching Jalalabad?

Muhammad Anwar: The Mujahideen have stinger missiles. The enemy cannot airlift supplies to their troops. The enemy is taking advantage of darkness and is airlifting supplies during night.

Compere: According to Radio Kabul, Pakistani militia and Saudi volunteers are assisting the Mujahideen in the fighting, is it true?

Muhammad Anwar: All the Islamic countries are providing assistance to the Mujahideen. The Mujahideen are fully capable of fighting. By the grace of Almighty Allah, they do not need Pakistani or Saudi Arabian brethren to take part in the Jihad with them. This is just an anti-Mujahideen propaganda (Current Affairs—Pushto: May 2, 1989).

We had a telephonic interview with the Mujahideen Commanders in Peshawar regarding the latest situation in Afghanistan. First, we

asked Abdul Haq Tariq, a Commander of the Hezb-e-Islami (Hikmatyar group) in Charasiab area of Kabul about the situation in his area. He said:

Abdul Haq Tariq: The government troops are stationed in the positions taken over from the Soviet troops while the Mujahideen are holding their positions in the surrounding area. The government troops have adopted defensive tactics while the Mujahideen are carrying out aggressive attacks on their posts time and again. The Mujahideen belonging to different organizations carried out joint attacks on Soviet Embassy, Kabul airport and government posts on Saur 7, on the occasion of the celebration of coup d'etat. The government troops dared not attack the Mujahideen positions. They carried out aerial strikes on the Mujahideen positions.

Compere: Can you maintain the control of highways leading to Kabul?

Abdul Haq Tariq: The highway leading to Paktiya in southern part is blocked and the Jalalabad highway was also blocked by the Mujahideen when we were coming here.

Compere: These had been rumours that people are leaving Kabul for Logar. Have you any information in this regard?

Abdul Haq Tariq: The people are leaving Kabul due to Mujahideen rocket attacks and famine. The famine condition has worsened. All the people want to migrate and majority of them are migrating to Pakistan (Current Affairs—Pushto: May 16, 1989).

Later, we asked Professor Dr. Younus-ul-Akbar of Geology Department in Kabul university regarding the situation in Kabul University. He has recently migrated to Peshawar:

Professor: The University administration is converting education system to Russian system. A number of new subjects and military lessons were included in the course. But the neutral Professors strongly resisted and eventually these subjects were withdrawn. At present, both the students and Professors are very disappointed. A number of Professors have migrated and seventeen to eighteen Professors have arrived here. At present, sixty to seventy per cent students at the University are girls. The boy students do not attend the University due to fear of compulsory military service (Current Affairs—Pushto: May 30, 1989).

VOA: The Jamiat-e-Islami sources said the government troops attempted twice to break the siege of the Kabul-Jalalabad highway on Sunday and Monday but they failed. In a wireless message, a Mujahideen Commander, Muhammad Anwar reported from the war front that the Kabul planes carried out some twenty-one air raids on Mujahideen positions on Saturday along the highway. Afterwards infantry tried to

advance, but the Mujahideen foiled the attack. They said that during the three-day fighting the Mujahideen destroyed some seventeen tanks and eighteen other military vehicles of the Kabul regime. Since the siege of this highway by the Mujahideen on March 6, they have shot down at least one jet fighter and four helicopters on the area. The Kabul-Jalalabad highway has been blocked for the last seven weeks and there is no land route to provide supplies to the besieged Kabul troops in the area. The Mujahideen sources said that Kabul regime helicopters were constantly airlifting arms and ammunition to the headquarters of the Laghman province since April 15 so that it could be re-transported to Jalalabad. On the other hand, Mujahideen were also trying to block these supplies. They have destroyed several enemy military posts. They also shot down a helicopter near Khush Gumbad on Sunday. But the Mujahideen sources did admit that the government troops have succeeded in transporting some quantity of arms and ammunition to Jalalabad (Radio Report—Urdu: May 2, 1989).

VOG: The Afghan Muslim guerillas today again attacked the capital, Kabul with rockets. As the government claimed to have repulsed a fresh attack on garrison town—Khost, seven rockets hit Kabul, all of them apparently aimed at the airport where Soviet planes are still landing with supplies. Three people were killed (May 16, 1989).

After seven days of lull in fighting, Afghan government soldiers have again fired on Mujahideen positions around the capital, Kabul. The troops were reinforced last week. A military spokesman said that during fighting over the weekend near the eastern cities of Jalalabad and Khost some three hundred lives have been lost (News—English: May 29, 89).

AIR: A leading Harare Newspaper the Herald has revealed that the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister narrowly escaped death when Afghan rebels tried to shot down his plane over Kabul airport recently.

He was on a visit to countries involved in Afghanistan's conflict on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement.

The newspaper said the rebels fired American supplied stinger missile on his plane (News—English: May 23, 1989).

Radio Kabul: The criminal extremists, who are enemies of peace and prosperity of our people, once again subjected the residential areas of Kabul city to rocket and missile attacks today. Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the rockets and missiles landed in Sher Shah Mina. Luckily they caused no casualties, except material damages to our people (News—Pushto: May 3, 1989).

The Afghan security forces defused an explosive device in Kabul city. It weighed twenty-four kilograms. Bakhtar news agency reported that the rebels supported by Pakistan wanted to kill our countrymen

but their plan was foiled (News—Pushto: May 4, 1989).

The criminal extremists supported by Pakistan committed another un-pardonable crime against the people of Kabul today. Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the extremists by using heavy weapons, fired three ground-to-ground missiles at Kabul city today. One of the missiles hit Dasht-e-Aarchi area, as a result of which four children were martyred and two others injured. The other two missiles landed in an uninhabited area of Kabul, causing no casualty (News—Pushto: May 10, 1989).

Another report of the Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency said that during another successful operation of the armed forces along Jalalabad-Sarobi highway, sixteen extremists were wiped out (News—Pushto: May 13, 1989).

Kabul Times: Kabul, May 4: A group of English newsmen who have prepared some reports on the recent rockets on the Kabul city wrote that brutal scenes have hidden behind the tear shed by Kabul citizens.

They write that those rockets are either made of China or Egypt, but the fact is that most of the rockets are made by America, Britain and Saudi Arabia who render necessary aid to the Afghan extremists to use the rockets.

They mentioned that America has not accepted the Soviet proposal for stopping Moscow and Washington's military aid to both sides involved in war in Afghanistan and for the establishment of the ceasefire here.

The Washington authorities are happy that their military aid is used against military targets but the facts show that these aids have damaged the residential areas (KT: May 11, 1989).

Kabul, May 18 (BIA): The personnel of anti-crime department of the Ministry of Interior detected recently a quantity of explosives and ammunition of assorted weapons in Bagrami district, Kabul province.

The ammunition and explosives included, 29 shells of rockets launchers, 20,000 shells of heavy weapons, 29 anti-personnel mines, hand grenades as well as 2.5 kg of explosives.

The ammunitions were hidden by extremists, backed by Pakistan for creating panic and killing a number of innocent and pious Muslims (KT: May 18, 1989).

Seven families consisting of 66 compatriots who were living in Pakistan returned yesterday home in the light of the policy of national reconciliation.

The compatriots were warmly welcomed and stayed a short time in peace guest house in Kabul city until they get resettled in their

native areas in Kunduz province (KT: May 21, 1989).

Radio Moscow: TASS correspondent reported from Kabul that terrorists were firing missiles on the Afghan capital killing civilians. The rebels attacked Kabul international airport and residential areas yesterday as a result of which three people were killed and a large number of others were injured. Twenty-one ground-to-ground missiles landed in that part of Kabul airport where Soviet aircraft bringing relief goods were parked (News—Pushto: May 17, 1989).

The rebels were reported to have shelled, Kabul today. Some peaceful citizens sustained injuries. There are also reports of government troops operation against armed opposition contingents on the highway linking Kabul with the Soviet-Afghan border (News—Urdu: May 18, 1989).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: On May 16: Mujahideen attacked a Kabul-bound military convoy near Charikar. Ten tanks and others vehicles hit.

On May 19 and 20: Regime land and airforces tried to remove a road block created by Mujahideen in Jabal-us-Siraj mountainous area. Some regime tanks were destroyed.

Mujahideen fired rockets on Bagram airbase. Some tanks and aircraft were believed hit and destroyed during the attack.

On May 23: Mujahideen captured 2 military posts in Khwaja Sayaran area. Seventeen soldiers surrendered to Mujahideen near Soffiyan.

On May 25: Mujahideen fired rockets on Charikar, provincial headquarters.

VIRA: On Sunday last during a rocket attack on Bagram airport, 50 km north of Kabul, Afghan Mujahideen destroyed four aircraft and a helicopter of the Kabul regime.

The report said that from the beginning of Saur month (April 21) Afghan Mujahideen have destroyed a total of eight aircraft of the Kabul regime (May 4, 1989).

VOA: An article of John Berns has been published in the daily New York Times. A summary of the article is presented:

Correspondent John Berns from Salang highway: The articles says that the entire world knows about the terrible incidents that took place during the period of 10-years war in Afghanistan, but the destruction that has been caused during recent fighting in the most difficult terrain is far more terrible than the earlier ones. The highway leading to the north is under the guard of government military posts at short distance. Hundreds of destroyed tanks, trucks and armoured vehicles are seen

along the highway. The correspondent writes that as a result of shelling and bombing by Soviet and Kabul forces along both sides of the Highway nearly forty villages are now without any living being.

John Berns was in a team of journalists who visited Salang Highway in the north of Jabal-us-Siraj under the guard of Kabul administration troops. The correspondent quoted soldiers as having said that the destruction in the villages was caused during the last some weeks before Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan before 15 February. Soviet Commanders feared that the guerillas would attack the Soviet forces leaving their country. Therefore, they ordered shelling of the villages and suspected hideouts of the Mujahideen with aircraft and artillery. The correspondent says that truck convoys have key role to play for the survival of Kabul regime. After withdrawal of Soviet forces, control of Salang was handed over to Kabul forces but according to the article, Mujahideen captured big portions of the Highway due to which Kremlin had to airlift supplies to Kabul. The correspondent thinks that even if thirty heavy transport aircraft land in Kabul with such supplies it would be difficult for the capital, Kabul and other government controlled cities to survive without road supplies of food, fuel and heavy weapons. These cities include Jalalabad where most terrible war is going on. Destroyed trucks, tankers and tanks along the highway are an open proof of the heavy cost which the government forces are paying for using the highway. Despite all these destructions, Kabul authorities claim that arrival of five thousand trucks in Kabul from the Soviet border is a proof of the fact that government troops are loyal to them.

The correspondent recalls that western governments had expected at the time of Soviet forces withdrawal that Kabul government would be smashed with the huge number of government troops joining the ranks of the guerillas. John Berns says that this point was repeated a number of times during the visit of the journalists. The team of the journalists was also carried to Hygin village which remained under the control of Afghan Mujahideen for about one month after the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The commander of Jabal-us-Siraj, General Shafi told correspondent that the village was recaptured by the government troops after twelve days fierce fighting at the end of March and two hundred and fifty guerillas were killed in the fighting. The correspondent writes that despite confidence of General Shafi and alertness of the government forces there were signs that guerillas were not far away from them as they were hearing sound of artillery fire from across the valley (Press Review—Urdu: May 8, 1989).

The Afghan Mujahideen claimed that they have regained control of key part of the main highway in the north of Kabul and that they

have blocked most of the routes of the supply convoys bound for the city.

Some confirmed reports reaching Pakistan said that the Mujahideen have established their control over a fifty kilometres long portion of the Salang Highway, which connects the Afghan capital with the Soviet Union.

The Kabul troops have time and again been trying to break the Mujahideen siege of the Highway. However, some supply convoys have been reaching Kabul through some other routes escaping the Mujahideen siege. The Soviet Union is also airlifting supplies to Kabul.

It may be recalled that the Afghan capital is facing food and fuel shortage since the Soviet troops withdrawal on February 15 (News—Urdu: May 16, 1989).

AIR: The daily Times of India has reported the claim made by the Afghan Mujahideen that four planes and a helicopter were destroyed as a result of their rocket attack on Bagram airport, forty kilometres from Kabul. In this way the total number of planes destroyed as a result of Mujahideen's attacks since April 21 has gone upto eight.

According to the Mujahideen's news agency the last attack was launched on Thursday.

On the other hand, the ruling party has claimed that if it could be able to retain power for two or three months more, the rural population would become their supporters (Jehan Numa—Urdu: May 1, 1989).

Kapisa

Nil report.

Laghman

Mujahideen sources: On May 13: Thirty officers and men of the regime armed forces defected and joined Mujahideen (somewhere) in Laghman province.

A military convoy moving out of Kabul for Jalalabad came under attack of Mujahideen in Tangi area. In the fighting 5 tanks, 2 other vehicles and one multibarel rocket launcher were destroyed.

On May 14: Mujahideen shot down a MiG fighter over Charbagh area of Laghman province.

On May 15: Three officers belonging to the Kabul regime secret service KHAD defected and joined the Mujahideen.

On May 26: Mujahideen captured a Kabul regime security post near Surkhakan, west of Jalalabad in Laghman province on the Kabul-Jalalabad road.

VIRA: A report said a fighter aircraft of the Kabul regime prepar-

ing to attack on Mujahideen positions was shot down by the Afghan Mujahideen with anti-aircraft guns in Laghman province.

Similarly, in a operation in the centre of that province the Afghan Mujahideen liberated three military posts of the Kabul regime, capturing a huge quantity of arms and ammunition (News—Persian: May 1, 1989).

Afghan Islamic Press reported that Mujahideen have effectively blocked the Kabul-Jalalabad highway since May 23. A Mujahideen contingent has captured Rashmeen Tangi near Sarobi and a number of other contingents have launched big offensive on Surkhakan twenty-five kilometres, west of Jalalabad.

Surkhakan is situated at the junction of Kabul-Jalalabad highway from where a road leads to the Meteralam, capital of Laghman province. If Mujahideen succeeded to capture Surkhakan, it can cut off supply route of the government troops from Meteralam side. Afghan Media Resources Centre reported that Mujahideen captured centre of a regiment of the Government troops near Surkhakan on Friday. Fierce fighting is still continuing in this area (May 28, 1989).

Radio Kabul: The terrorists also shelled residential areas in Laghman and Paktiya provinces and Khost Uoleswali. In Laghman one man was martyred and two others injured while in Paktiya province three people were injured and several houses and a mosque damaged (May 7, 1989).

Similarly, as a result of the mopping-up operations in Herat, Kunduz, Qandahar and Laghman provinces, twenty extremists were killed and a number of others injured. Situation is reported to be normal in other provinces of the country (News—Pushto: May 19, 89).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that a convoy with arms for extremists which was on its way to Laghman province from Pakistan, came under the shelling of the Afghan artillery, which resulted in the killing of three extremists and injuring of three others. Besides, three horses carrying arms and ammunition were also eliminated (News—Pushto: May 31, 1989).

Logar

Mujahideen sources: On May 12: A wagon carrying women and children from Logar to Pakistan border hit a landmine laid by Kabul regime agents between Zarghoon Shah and Dobandi. Eighty women and 4 children were killed.

Soviet-made aircraft bombard villages in the vicinity of Deh Nau, Dobandi, and Zarghoon Shah almost every day.

On May 19: Mujahideen and Kabul regime troops clashed in Safid

Sang area. Two regime tanks and 8 other vehicles were destroyed.

Soviet-made aircraft bombed Mujahideen positions in the area by way of "retaliation."

Wardak

Nil report.

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below were the major Radio Kabul propaganda themes in May 1989 in descending order of recurrence:

1. Violations of Geneva Accords from Pakistan side:
 - (a) Supply of arms and equipment to oppositionists.
 - (b) Propaganda campaign against Afghanistan.
 - (c) The guerillas training camps, offices, centres and other related facilities in Pakistan.
 - (d) Formation of Shoora and so-called interim government.
 - (e) Direct participation in the war by Pakistani militiamen, commandos, and Arab mercenaries.
2. Political solution is the only peaceful way of ending the Afghan conflict. In this regard following efforts have been initiated by the government of Afghanistan:
 - (a) Demand for International Peace Conference on Afghanistan issue.
 - (b) Complete and sincere observance of Geneva Accords.
 - (c) Unilateral ceasefire declaration.
 - (d) Peace loving and Islamic Policy of National Reconciliation.
 - (e) Recognition of Islam as state religion.
 - (f) Favouring permanent de-militarisation of Afghanistan.
3. Afghan government administration functionaries and its armed forces are strong enough to defend the country's territory and sovereignty.
4. Increasing differences in the ranks of opposition extremists, their brutal attacks on civilians, their un-Islamic and irresponsible stance.
5. Constructive stand of Khan Abdul Wali Khan on Afghanistan issue.

Radio Moscow

Given below were the major Moscow media propaganda themes regarding Afghanistan in May 1989 in descending order of recurrence:

1. Violation by Pakistan of Geneva Accords.
 - (a) Direct interference in Afghanistan.
 - (b) Massing of troops for aggression against Afghanistan.
 - (c) Pakistan responsible for aggravation of the situation in Afghanistan.
2. Political rather than military solution of Afghanistan problem is to be preferred. Soviet and Kabul governments' commendable stances.
 - (a) Observance of Geneva Accords in word and spirit.
 - (b) Promotion of dialogue and to achieve a political solution to Afghanistan.
 - (c) Use of minimal forces in order to keep human and material losses low.
 - (d) Efforts to convene an International Peace Conference on Afghanistan.
3. Kabul administration and its armed forces can stabilize the situation.
 - (a) Afghan forces have enough strength to defend the country.
 - (b) Their morale is high.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN MAY 1989 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Kabul casualties	:	1356 killed and	1454 wounded
Defections	:	2354 Kabul troops defected and	819 captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	268 killed and	301 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	196 killed and	97 wounded

Kabul Material Losses

Aircraft	19	Security Posts	148
Helicopters	12	Buildings	5
Tanks	162	Villages	5
APCs	128	Food Depots	2
HMVs	201	Ammunition Depots	18
Trucks	153	Garrison	4
Oil Tankers	11	Arms and ammunitions	4
Jeeps	9	Assorted Weapons	703
LMGs	43	Clothing Depots	6
HMGs	96	Trucks/Vehicles loaded with	
Doshaka	4	Food, fuel and ammunitions	76
Rocket Launchers	32	Ammunitions Boxes	71
Klashnikovs	330	Stenguns	400
Rifles	413	Generators	15
Pistols	2	Tractors	66
HGs	5		

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN MAY 1989 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Losses Inflicted to "Counter-Revolutionaries"

Human Losses:	Killed	4671	
	Wounded	2230	
	Captured	15	
Returnees:	Civilians		(Those availing amnesty, voluntarily surrendering, changing allegiance, and joining Soviet-Kabul ranks).
	Refugees	636	
	Armed Men	636	
	Surrendering	1066	

Mujahideen Material Losses

Tank	1	G.G. Missiles	2745
Hand Grenades	50	Trenches	14
Recoilles Gunes	10	Doshakas	4
LMGs	1200	Mortars	10
Rocket Launchers	127+47 shells	Doshaka Shells	1550
Assorted Weapons	27	Explosives 11 kg + 1 detonator	
Munition Depots	24	APC	1
Mines (Misc)	34	Wireless Sets	9
Misc Cartridges	33,000	Rocket Units	5
Propaganda material	2	Sacker-20 Missiles	23
Vehicles	27	including 12 laden with arms	
Mules	12		

Losses Inflicted by Counter-Revolutionary Elements

Human Losses	Killed	154	(including 12 troops)
	Wounded	209	(including 21 troops)
Material Losses	Residence	114	Public Welfare Buildings 4
	Hospitals	3	Shops 6
	Vehicles	4	Mosques 6

APPENDIX — 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN MAY 1989 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capital	Engagements	
			Inside city	Vicinity of city
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	Zaranj	—	—
Hilmand	6	Lashkargah	3	36
Qandahar	56	Qandahar	7	—
Zabul	—	Kalat Gilzai	—	8
Ghazni	18	Ghazni	5	—
Paktika	—	Sharna	—	—
Paktiya	67	Gardez	—	—
Ningarhar	168	Jalalabad	17	92
Kunar	—	Chagha Sarai	—	—
Nooristan	—	Godwal	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	7	Faizabad	—	3
Takhar	2	Taloqan	—	—
Kunduz	15	Kunduz	1	4
Baghlan	33	Baghlan	3	3
Samangan	—	Samangan	—	—
Balkh	10	Mazar-e-Sharif	3	1
Jozjan	1	Shebergan	—	—
Sar-e-pul	4	Sar-e-Pul	2	—
Faryab	12	Maimana	3	1
Badghis	—	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	10	Herat	—	—
Farah	6	Farah	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	Bamiyan	—	—
Ghor	—	Chaghcharan	—	—
Uruzgan	2	Tarin Kot	1	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	113	Kabul	15	13
Parwan	18	Charikar	2	2
Kapisa	—	Mahmud-i-Raq	—	—
Laghman	8	Mehtarlam	1	—
Logar	7	Pul-e-Alam	—	—
Wardak	—	Koteasro	—	—
TOTAL	563		63	163

APPENDIX — 4

**MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND
KABUL OPERATIONS IN MAY 1989
(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)**

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	—	—	—	—	—
Hilmand	1	5	—	—	6
Qandahar	10	37	1	8	56
Zabul	—	—	—	—	—
Ghazni	—	4	10	4	18
Paktika	—	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	8	29	17	13	67
Ningarhar	19	47	47	55	168
Kunar	—	—	—	—	—
Nooristan	—	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	4	3	—	—	7
Takhar	1	—	—	1	2
Kunduz	1	11	2	1	15
Baghlan	12	13	7	1	33
Samangan	—	—	—	—	—
Balkh	2	6	2	—	10
Jozjan	—	1	—	—	1
Sar-e-pul	—	9	—	—	9
Faryab	2	7	3	—	12
Badghis	—	—	—	—	—
Bordering Iran					
Herat	5	5	—	—	10
Farah	3	3	—	—	6
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	—	—	—	—
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	21	43	28	21	113
Parwan	8	5	4	1	18
Kapisa	—	—	—	—	—
Laghman	4	1	2	1	8
Logar	1	2	3	1	7
Wardak	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	102	228	125	107	563

APPENDIX — 5

**PROVINCEWISE KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS & RETURNEES
IN MAY 1989 (SOVIET-KABUL SOURCES)**

Provinces	Kabul Operations	Counter-revolutionaries Actions	Returnees	Armed men surrendered
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	—	—	—
Hilmand	1	—	—	—
Qandahar	13	6	—	125
Zabul	—	—	—	—
Ghazni	1	—	—	—
Paktika	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	18	19	—	—
Ningarhar	40	26	—	—
Kunar	—	—	—	—
Nooristan	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	—	—	—	—
Takhar	—	—	—	—
Kunduz	3	1	—	26
Baghlan	1	—	—	—
Samangan	—	—	70	—
Balkh	—	—	—	—
Jozjan	—	—	—	15
Faryab	—	—	400	100
Sar-e-Pul	—	—	—	85
Badghis	—	—	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	3	7	100	—
Farah	—	—	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	—	—	700
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	20	23	66	15
Parwan	3	2	—	—
Kapisa	—	—	—	—
Laghman	3	4	—	—
Logar	—	—	—	—
Wardak	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	106	88	636	1066

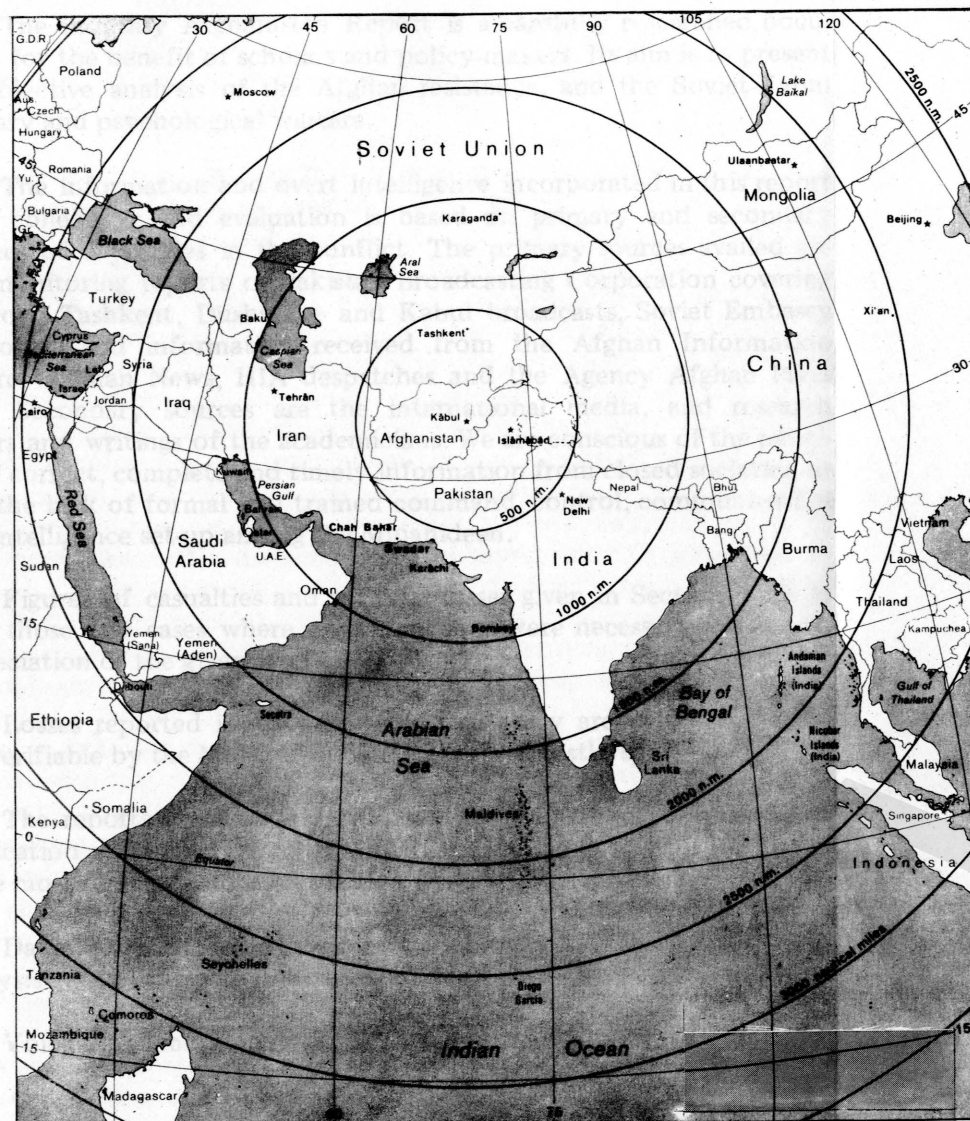
APPENDIX — 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES IN MAY 1989 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

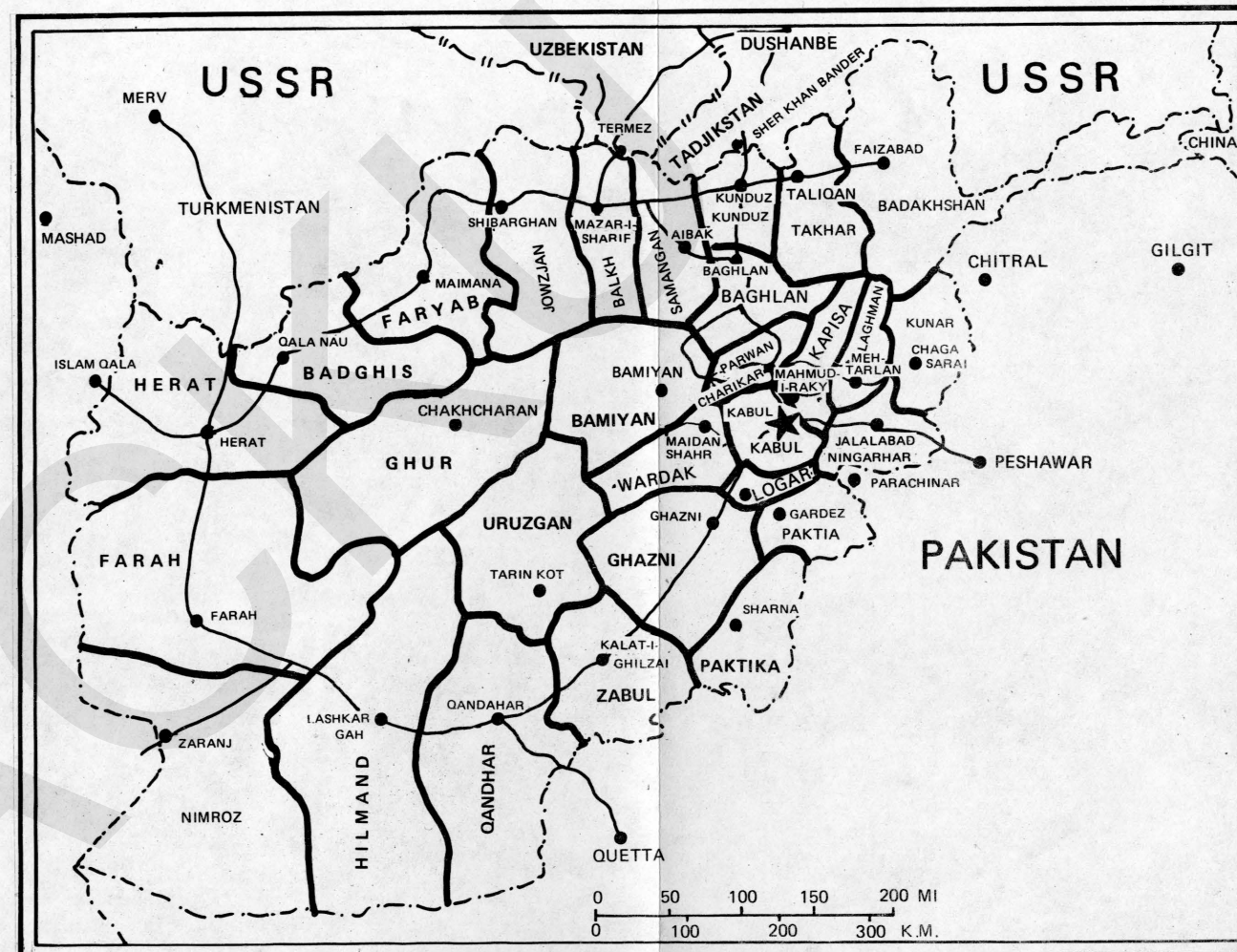
Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses Destroy- ed	Date 1989
		K	W		
Ghazni	Ghazni city	40	—	—	27-04
Ghazni	Ghazni city	24	—	—	28-04
Paktiya	Khost	—	5	—	28-05
Ningarhar	Jalalabad	5	10	—	02-05
Ningarhar	Khiwa	—	—	3	03-05
Ningarhar	Samarkhel	7	—	—	26-05
Ningarhar	Kuzkunar	5	—	—	26-05
Ningarhar	Khiwa	1	—	—	26-05
Kunduz	Khanabad	3	9	—	10-05
Baghlan	Baghlan	—	—	20	02-05
Baghlan	Dahnoghun	2	—	—	15-05
Balkh	Marmoil	—	—	24	08-05
Kabul	Paghman	3	—	10	07-05
Kabul	Shakardara	7	—	—	30-05
Parwan	Bagram	17	3	50	05-05
Logar	Dobandi	12	—	—	12-05
TOTAL		126	27	107	

16 incidents in 8 provinces

APPENDIX — 7 A



APPENDIX — 7 B



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during May 1989 in 20 provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Nimroz, Zabul, Paktika, Kunar, Nooristan, Samangan, Badghis, Bamiyan, Ghor, Kapisa and Wardak.

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during May 1989 in 11 provinces. These provinces are: Hilmand, Qandahar, Ghazni, Paktiya, Ningarhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Herat, Kabul, Parwan and Laghman.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Soviet Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, HIA despatches and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Provincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR).

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during May 1-31, 1989.

II.— POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Loya Jirgah Held

BIA reports that elections were held in the centre of provinces and centres of their equivalent administrative units and as per article four of the second chapter of law on elections to Loya Jirgah, the residents of the provinces and their equivalent administrative units elected in an open voting their representatives to the Loya Jirgah (KT: 18 May).

The Loya Jirgah was held in Kabul which has endorsed the Afghan government's policy of settling the country's situation through political means and supported the national reconciliation policy. A resolution adopted by the Jirgah says the only way to establish peace in Afghanistan is to end fratricidal war in the country. The resolution adds that a reconciliatory commission will comprise elected public representatives from all the provinces and those persons whose names will be recommended by Central Council of Afghanistan's National Front duly approved by the President. The Jirgah also approved letters requesting different international social organisations to help bring normalcy in Afghanistan. In a letter the US President, Mr. George Bush has been urged to review its policy towards Afghan Opposition (Radio Moscow, 22 May).

A BBC report says that, the Jirgah had been called to renew the military emergency brought in three months ago, just after the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan. But President Najibullah said the emergency and the search for peace were all part of the same process. The Assembly is to appoint three men who will travel to Mujahideen commanders inside Afghanistan and leaders in Pakistan and Iran. They will also go to the ex-King Zahir Shah in Rome. But it is far from certain that the emissarie should be seen at all by any of these parties. If the opposition will not see this commission then, will they see any commission at all about peace, he challenged. President Najib referred to unwarranted interference by the Pakistani military on the side of the Mujahideen. He hinted that the Kabul regime was preparing to take some pretty desperate measures in order to survive. If the interference persisted, he said Afghan forces would rocket bases of the extremists, as he put it, in Pakistan, meaning presumably the refugee camps. He said he would order a full mobilization in Afghanistan, implying a call up of every available male and the imposition of Martial Law (BBC,

20 May).

Najib Addressed a Press Conference

Afghan President Najibullah addressed a press conference in Kabul on May 2, 1989. During the press conference, he said that Afghanistan is facing the biggest and most bloody crisis of its history. He also said that contrary to fears, Afghanistan government is still in power even after the withdrawal of Soviet troops and as Najibullah put it, is becoming popular among the masses. President Najibullah also said that a number of Mujahideen commanders are holding negotiations with the government, and during the last two years sixty-five thousand guerillas have laid down their arms. The guerillas would be given share in the broad-based national government beside extending several other facilities so that a government comprising various political parties could run the mixed economic system of the country. However, in view of Najibullah, Communist Party will be the biggest partner in the government (BBC, 2 May).

Wakil Visit India

Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs arrived in New Delhi on his way to Harare to attend the session of the Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned countries.

Abdul Wakil called thereafter on Rajiv Gandhi, Indian Prime Minister and conveyed to him the greetings of President Najibullah.

Abdul Wakil briefed the Indian Premier of the recent developments in the Republic of Afghanistan, following the Soviet troops pull-out, particularly in frontier provinces. He also expressed the serious concern of the Republic of Afghanistan over the consequences which, these developments may follow.

In turn, Rajiv Gandhi viewed with satisfaction the high-level bilateral relations and deemed necessary the constant contacts between the leadership of Afghanistan and that of India with regards to the exchange of information and consultations on the development of the situation related to Afghanistan and to the region, after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces in particular. He supported the efforts and initiatives of the Republic of Afghanistan for ensuring peace and defending the country's independence and, national sovereignty (KT, 15 May).

Mr. Wakil told a press conference at the end of the visit, that he hoped for an increase in Indian shipments of food and medicines to Kabul. Answering a question about the preparations by the opposition of an offensive on Kabul, the Afghan Minister said with a smile, "welcome". The government he emphasised, controls the situation, although

three months had passed since the Soviet troops withdrawal. (Radio Moscow, 14 May).

Afghan Interim Government Seeks Non-Aligned Movement Membership

The interim government of the Seven Party Alliance desires to have membership in the Non-aligned Movement. Reuter News Agency reports, that a spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Office has told newsmen that Pakistan will support admission of the Afghan interim government to the Non-aligned Movement, in the NAM Foreign Ministers meeting going on in the Zimbabwean capital Harare. The spokesman said that President of the Afghan interim government Sibghatullah Mujaddadi hand over an appeal in this connection to the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, while the two leaders met in Islamabad earlier this month (Radio Tehran, 18 May).

Mujaddadi rejects, convening of an International Conference

President of the Interim government of the Seven Party Alliance of Afghan Mujahideen, Sibghatullah Mujaddadi has rejected the Soviet proposal for convening an international conference on Afghanistan issue and described the armed struggle as the only solution to the problems of that country.

At a press conference in Peshawar, Sibghatullah Mujaddadi described the Najib regime as illegal and rejected any type of negotiations with that regime.

Mujaddadi said the continued Soviet assistance to the Kabul regime will have negative impact on relations of the future government of Afghanistan with the Soviet Union (Radio Tehran, 14 May).

Soviet Invites 8 Party Alliance for Talks

The Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Yuli Vorontsov who recently visited Tehran has said that he has invited leaders of the Iran-based eight party alliance to visit the Soviet Union. He said that they have accepted the invitation and will consider the time and date of the visit. Mr. Vorontsov said that his meeting with the alliance leaders was very useful and he was agreed with them that foreign interference in the affairs of Afghanistan should be ended and a broad-based government should be formed there (BBC, 22 May).

Eight Party Alliance Reject Soviet Offer

The representatives of the eight groups of the Iran-based Afghan Resistance Movement have rejected the Soviet invitation to visit Moscow for talks with the Soviet leaders on the formation of a broad-

based government in Afghanistan.

The spokesman of the Iran-based Afghan guerilla alliance, Mr. Ali Jan Zahidi told a news conference in Tehran that although the invitation was rejected immediately yet in the last few days there had been some headway in talks with the Soviet officials (BBC, 23 May).

Rabbani Visit Iran

A spokesman for the eight-party alliance of Afghan Mujahideen said on the conclusion of four day talks with the visiting delegation of Pakistan-based seven-party alliance of Afghan Mujahideen, led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, that a four-point memorandum of understanding was signed by the two sides in Tehran.

In the memorandum of understanding, special emphasis has been laid on the preservation of national unity, continuation of armed struggle till the fall of Kabul regime and coordination and planning for the future government in Afghanistan.

The spokesman for the eight-party alliance added that the visiting delegation of seven-party alliance extended invitation to the Iran-based alliance to send a delegation to Pakistan to work out details of the agreements arrived at about the formation of interim government, leadership council, acceleration of efforts for drafting election laws and appointment of election personnel.

The eight-party alliance demanded its real position in the leadership council of Afghanistan and specification of the position of various Afghan groups which are not represented in the council of unity. The eight-party alliance is of the view that without participation of all the struggling groups, the Afghan problem cannot be resolved and the council will not enjoy full-fledged support of the masses (Radio Tehran, 3 May).

Delegation of Eight-Party Alliance Visit Islamabad

A four-member delegation of Iran-based Afghan Mujahideen groups which had arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday is to start talks with the Pakistan-based resistance groups in Peshawar today (May 19, 1989). Rashid Ashraf, BBC correspondent contacted a well-known journalist of Peshawar, Mr. Rahimullah Yousafzai on phone and invited his comments to the reports that some members of Iranian Embassy also participated in the Kabul government briefings to tell details about the arrangements of Loya Jirgah. He asked should it be understood from this that the Iranian government and Iran-based Mujahideen groups are now leaning towards Kabul? Rahimullah Yousafzai: Some similar allegations have been levelled in Peshawar also. The Commander

of Kabul, Abdul Haq who belongs to Younus Khalis Group, had released a report revealing that representatives of Shiite groups visited Kabul and held talks with the PDP government there. There have also been such allegations that the Shiite groups may reach some kind of agreement with the Kabul regime and obtain autonomy for their areas. But, it could not yet be confirmed. In my opinion, the Iranian government, somehow believes that the Soviets should not be much annoyed as they (Iranians) want to seek Moscow's support in their confrontation with the United States. So, perhaps they want to lessen the difficulties of the Soviets (BBC, 19 May).

Latest round of talks between the representatives of eight-party alliance and seven-party alliance of the Afghan Mujahideen concluded in Peshawar, Pakistan on May 28, 1989 by signing a five-clause agreement.

According to this agreement a Commission comprising six members from the two sides, would be established for strengthening relations and unity between both the alliances. The Commission will start its functioning very soon in Peshawar or Tehran.

In an interview with IRNA, the leader of the eight-party alliance delegation, Karim Khalili has said, that during the talks both the sides stressed the need of continuing struggle till the fall of Kabul regime and cooperation and coordination among the forces from both sides (Radio Tehran, 28 May).

Iran Emphasis on Mujahideen Unity

Leaders of the Council of Iran-based eight-party Mujahideen alliance called on President, Ali Khamenai in Tehran on June 2, 1989. Foreign Minister, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati was also present on the occasion.

The spokesman of the alliance Council, Mr. Zahidi presented a report to the Iranian President about the latest situation in Afghanistan and Mujahideen's operations against Kabul government. President, Khamenai said Afghanistan problem is an important political topic for Iranians. Referring to joint borders between the two Muslim countries, he said "Iran's national security is linked with the solidarity of Afghanistan so, we can never remain indifferent towards the future government of Afghanistan."

Reiterating Iran's support to the Afghan Mujahideen's struggle, the President stressed upon complete unity among different Mujahideen groups (Radio Tehran, 8 May).

Benin Seven Promoted

The United Nations has upgraded the status of its special envoy

on Afghanistan and now he has been made the UN Secretary General Mr. Cuellar's personal representative as well as Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations.

Mr. Benin belongs to Cyprus and he has been participating in the United Nations efforts for a settlement of Afghanistan problem. His duties included to hear complaints from both sides regarding alleged violations of the Geneva Accords. But, he has also been taking part in efforts to bring the war in Afghanistan to an end and has been visiting Islamabad, Kabul and New York in this regard. The decision to upgrade his status indicates that the United Nations is intensifying its diplomatic efforts for a settlement of Afghanistan issue. This is being done at a time when pressure for a negotiated settlement of Afghanistan problem is also increasing in Pakistan (BBC, 24 May).

U.N. Delegation Visit Iran

A high ranking UN delegation including UN Secretary General's special envoy on Afghanistan, Mr. Benin Seven is currently visiting Tehran for exchanging views with Iranian officials and eight-party alliance of Afghan Mujahideen. They held first round of talks with the representatives of eight-party alliance in its head office today.

During these talks the UN delegation reiterated that the fate of Afghan people should be decided by the people of that country (Radio Tehran, 28 May).

In the second round of talks with members of the Iran-based Mujahideen alliance in Tehran, the special envoy of the UN Secretary General, Mr. Benin Seven said the Soviet Union and the Kabul regime have agreed to hold talks with all the concerned parties for the formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

The UN Secretary General desires that as a result of general elections, a broad-based government should take over the affairs of that country.

The spokesman of the eight-party alliance, Hujatul-Islam Ali Jan Zahidi stressed the holding of general elections. However, at the same time, he said the interests of American and the Soviet Union and the rule of the present regime in Kabul are the main hurdle in holding free elections.

He pointed out that proper ground can be paved for holding elections through ending foreign intervention in Afghanistan and after the fall of the present regime in Kabul and the dissolution of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (Radio Tehran, 30 May).

The second round of talks between the UN Secretary General's delegation and the Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati

was held in Tehran on May 29, 1989.

While stressing the need for seeking ways and means to stop bloodshed in Afghanistan, the Adviser to the UN Secretary General said that all the Afghan groups should cooperate in seeking a solution to the Afghan problem. He added that this objective cannot be achieved without unity among the Mujahideen groups.

Mr. Velayati said that withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and acceptance of the ceasefire by Iran have created a new political atmosphere in the region. He assured his country's support to the UN Secretary General in efforts for solving the Afghan problem and said that without the Mujahideen's participation, it would be impossible to settle the Afghan conflict (Radio Tehran, 30 May).

There can be no Military Solution—Helmenan

General Raul Helmenan of Finland, who has completed his duties as head of a group of UN observers, supervising compliance with the Geneva Accords, said "there can be no military solution in Afghanistan. The opposition is unable to overcome the government forces, whose combat capability has increased." General Helmenan has stressed the need for a political solution, otherwise he said a situation similar to Lebanon could develop in Afghanistan (Radio Moscow, 19 May).

2 — SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Protocol Signed

A protocol was signed on Thursday in the Ministry of Planning on the delivery of the commodities which the Mongolian People's Republic has assisted to Afghanistan under the programme of humanitarian economic aid of the United Nations to the people of Afghanistan.

It was signed by Mongolian Ambassador in Kabul and Mr. Sadruddin Agha Khan, Coordinator of the UN Aid to Afghanistan. The goods include five tons medicine, some footwear and clothes which cost 113,000 dollars (KT, 9 May).

Food Situation in Afghanistan

United Nations relief officials in Afghanistan say that they have distributed their last supplies of food among starving residents of the capital, Kabul. UN has provided two hundred and twenty-seven tons of flour, wheat and sugar over the past month to fifteen thousand suffering families. The head of UN Development Programme in Afghanistan says there are four hundred thousand vulnerable people in Kabul alone. He says the programme is seeking additional relief supplies from

Governments around the world and hopes to resume the distribution (Radio Australia, 30 April).

A Radio Moscow report says a convoy of about six hundred trucks carrying food, fuel and other essential commodities has reached Kabul, May 3, 1989 via Hairatan port, despite guerilla attacks (BBC, 5 May).

The Afghan authorities have been trying to overcome the shortage of food and fuel in Kabul. This has been reported at a news conference by the Secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Najmuddin. He reported that in order to speed up deliveries of goods to the population, a thirty kilometres road would be laid as an extension to the highway from Kabul to Salang Pass (Radio Moscow, 6 May).

Soviets Concerned Over Costs of Airlifting

The New York Times correspondent, John F. Berns reports from Kabul about the supply being airlifted to Kabul government from the Soviet Union. The correspondent writes that air supplies to Kabul government may decide the fate of war. The Soviet planes are airlifting ten thousand tones of goods to Kabul every week including long-range Scud-B missiles. According to the correspondent, the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed impatience over the burden which this airlifting constitutes on the Soviet economy. The Soviet diplomats in Kabul have indicated that the Kremlin is desirous of a political solution of the Afghan problem within six months (VOA, 24 May).

3 — REPATRIATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

The United Nations Refugees Commission in Pakistan says substantial number of refugees are beginning to return to their homes in Southern Afghanistan.

Both the United Nations and foreign diplomats in Pakistan, who have been following developments across the border, have noted a big movement of refugees back to Southern Afghanistan. They said that as many as a hundred families a day, including children, are returning, particularly, to Qandahar province and the neighbouring areas in Hilmand and Zabul. Many observers are baffled by the sudden movement of people. The diplomats say it could be a combination of factors including the relatively low level of fighting in the South of Afghanistan at the moment as well as a displeasure with life in the refugee camps and an anxiety to return home in time to plough their fields.

The Chief of the United Nations Refugees Commission in Pakistan believes that this could be the first sign of a major return home among the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, since, the war began nine

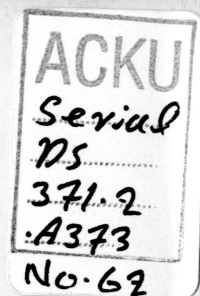
years ago. But he warned that his Organisation would be unable to support the surprised migration because of the security situation still prevailing in Afghanistan and the fact that they are unable under, their charter, to aid individuals (BBC, 24 May).

The Afghan governmentl claims that nearly one hundred families are returning home in the south, specially in the areas of Hilmand and Zabul everyday. No doubt the UN and foreign diplomats in Pakistan have noted the movement of the Afghan refugees, but the number given by the Afghan government and the importance attached to this by Kabul are exaggerated. The representative of the UN High Commission for Refugees in Pakistan says that according to his report except a few hundred Afghan families from Baluchistan none else has returned to Afghanistan. He says that the fact is that the number of the Afghan refugees returning home is now declining. He adds that at this stage, there is no proof that the Afghan refugees are returning home permanently in large number. He also reminded that the influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan was still continuing. However, because of stalemate in the war around Jalalabad, there is some lull in this influx (BBC, 30 May).

Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan received yesterday at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers Karl Fabred head of the operative units of the UN High Commission for Refugees.

The meeting discussed the implementation of the UN cooperation programmes for refugees and preparation of the Republic of Afghanistan for receiving the repatriates and provision of facilities for the refugees (KT, 20 May).





STRATEGIC STUDIES

(Quarterly Journal)

Published by

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(P.O. Box 1173) Islamabad, Pakistan

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